Hafa Adai!

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CHC still awaits over 100 lab tests. PAGE 2

Buying power weakens as prices go up. PAGE 6

Altered states: 8 years after 9/11

U.S. Army reservist James Kennedy Benjamin shows a folded American flag that was raised in Kuwait and presented to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter by members of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry who returned to Saipan on Aug. 25.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'9/11 has made us value freedom, lives more'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan-born James Kennedy Benjamin and his classmates at Xavier High School in Chuuk were just coming out of the church when the school director told them that the twin towers in New York had been hit. That was the fateful day of Sept. 11, 2001.

He was only about 16 at that time and didn't know much about the twin tow-

See ALTERED on Page 4

A more security-conscious people

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Giddeon S. Kikku, a former chief of the Department of Public Safety in Chuuk, the horrors brought by the 9/11 terrorists attack turned him into a security-conscious person.

Now the deputy marshal in the CNMI courts, Kikku, 51, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the 2001 attack on the

See A MORE on Page 4

Museum scours world for new videos of 9/11

By VERENA DOBNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A camera in Brooklyn points through a chain-link fence at black smoke pouring from one skyscraper, while a plane pierces another. Papers fly through the sky; some of them end up in the film-

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ON THE NET:

- "Make History": http://makehistory.national911memorial.org
- National September 11 Memorial & Museum: http://www.national911memorial.org
- "Brooks Brothers": http://thecameraplanetarchive.magnify.net/video/Night-at-1-Liberty-Place
- "Plane Hits Towers": http://thecameraplanetarchive.magnify.net/video/Over-There-NYT

MCS students remember 9/11 tragedy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mount Carmel School chapter of the Junior Statesmen of America displayed yesterday the group's first ever exhibit on people's heroism and sacrifices during the Sept. 11 tragedy that happened eight years ago.

Titled "We Will Never Forget," the exhibit showcases a tribute article by the group's

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MONETH G. DEPOSA
Maria Balajadia and Kevin Bautista, officers of the Junior Statesmen of America-Mount Carmel School chapter, look at the group's exhibit commemorating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
EIGHT YEARS AFTER 9/11
Rodrigo Pacios, left, and Aniceto Iglesias, right, stand behind the American flag-inspired Marine Corps Career Center signage on a building along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau yesterday. For Northern Marianas residents, the American flag has gained a deeper meaning as a symbol of freedom and sacrifice since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001—exactly eight years ago today—and the continuing war against terrorism that has cost the lives of American soldiers, including those from the CNMI.

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
At this point, do you support a one-year extension in the federalization of local immigration?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 10, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Summer of Setbacks
Shaking off a summer of setbacks, President Obama summoned Congress to enact sweeping health care legislation.

NATION...Page 21

50 Years
On Sunday, Sr. Martha Ramarui, MMB, will celebrate her Golden Jubilee.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

LIFE'S SHORT TYPE FAST
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Local

CHC still awaits over 100 lab tests

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Even as Guam recorded its second H1N1-related death, the CNMI is noting a significant decline in the number of people going to the public hospital and private clinics with influenza-like symptoms.

Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan also confirmed in a press briefing yesterday that all six confirmed pandemic flu cases in the CNMI have already recovered.

Commonwealth Health Center medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom said, though, that DPH is not letting down its guard.

"Although there is noticeable decrease in emergency room activities, the hospital is not taking lightly the fact that the H1N1 virus is still circulating in the community and around the world," he said.

Since the entry of the virus into the Commonwealth, CHC has already sent hundreds of laboratory tests to San Antonio, Texas for confirmation, Untalan said. As of yesterday, there are still over a hundred lab test results that have yet to be released to the CNMI.

Untalan said the hospital will begin administering the initial rollout of the H1N1 vaccines sometime in late October or early November.

He said the first batch will be administered to those on the "priority list," including the elderly, pregnant women, those with chronic diseases, and infants. He assured, though, that other community members will get the vaccines in the next shipments.

As for the seasonal vaccines, Untalan said the shipment is expected by the end of this month. He urged community members, especially pregnant women, to take advantage of this vaccine.

'13-year-old girl from Saipan'

In the middle of yesterday's news briefing, Untalan shared that the Guam public hospital had informed him that Guam's second H1N1-related death was a 13-year-old girl who was from Saipan and had moved to Guam.

According to Untalan, the victim died on Aug. 29, while the hospital was still waiting for the results of her laboratory test from Texas.

The result of the test was released after the girl died. Untalan said the patient had pre-existing conditions that caused complications. He did not specify the pre-existing conditions.

He said CHC is in constant communication with the Guam hospital to see if there are other vital information they may need to know for Saipan.

"We're prepared for more cases…if they come," Brostrom told the media, adding that the hospital is closely monitoring the schools, which just opened classes this week.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan earlier formed a task force that will focus on the prevention of virus' spread and impact. Proper channels for information dissemination as well as hotline numbers and health pamphlets were distributed to every school.

Brostrom revealed that some studies on H1N1 virus have disclosed that in some cases, the usual symptoms of the H1N1 virus do not show up in all the patients.

"Studies in other jurisdictions show that the prevalence of the H1N1 is very high," he said.

DPH program analyst Roxanne Diaz reiterated yesterday the need to follow basic precautionary measures to avert the spread of the virus, including washing of the hands and avoiding touching one's eyes or nose.

She said DPH is initiating a flu watch campaign that targets school children.

Primo Says:
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Division of Environmental Quality DEQ CNMI
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
HOW LONG 'TIL IT'S GONE?
Estimated decomposition rates of common marine debris
TIN CAN .....50 years
ALUMINUM CAN .....200 years
DISPOSABLE DIAPER .....450 years
PLASTIC .....450 years
FISHING LINE .....600 years
NOTE: Estimated individual item timelines depend on product composition and environmental conditions.
Source: Guide to Marine Debris and the International Coastal Cleanup (The Ocean Conservancy)

11-member House committee to vote on financial records request

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 11-member House Ways and Means Committee will vote on whether or not to obtain financial records from the Fitial administration related to the federalization lawsuit, after committee chairman Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) received confirmation from the legal counsel that asking for specific documents does not pose legal and constitutional problems.

Committee members interviewed yesterday said voting "no" or "yes" will depend on discussion during the committee meeting, which may be called today.

After consulting with House legal counsel Antonette Villagomez, Yumul said he will be voting "yes" on the issue of whether to request records from the administration, including the government's engagement letter/contract with the U.S.-based law firm Jenner & Block LLP, and detailed billing invoices.

"After consulting with the counsel who said there's no constitutional prohibition and no legal issues surrounding the request, the committee now has to meet and vote on whether or not to request those documents," he said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said he is "leaning toward voting yes," but looks forward to committee discussion.

Another committee member, Rep. David Apatang, said he will wait for the committee meeting before deciding on the issue.

This was also echoed by Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) in separate interviews.

"Let's not forget that even the courts decided those are privileged information. As I said in the session, releasing those documents may jeopardize the lawsuit, whether or not we agree with the lawsuit. It's not an easy decision to make, to vote on the issue," Benavente said.

The five other committee members are Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian), Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan).

Yumul hopes to have at least six members present during the meeting for a quorum.

In Tuesday's session, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the Legislature has the authority and the responsibility to scrutinize all records showing how public money is spent.

Palacios and Sablan, however, recognized that the local courts specifically withheld as privileged records two documents that would not be available under the Open Government Act because they would reveal litigation strategy while the federalization lawsuit is still pending.

Sablan sued the Fitial administration to compel it to release documents showing how much has been spent on the federalization lawsuit, among other things.

The House directed Yumul's committee to "consider" exercising its legal authority to obtain financial records on the pending CNMI lawsuit against federalization.

Palacios also directed Yumul to consult with the House legal counsel on the issue, and report back to the speaker.

"Because the legal counsel said we can do this, we can now meet and vote on it," Yumul said.

Last week, Sablan got 30 of 32 requested documents from the Executive Branch, after the local courts ruled in her favor for the release of documents pertaining to the government's federalization lawsuit.

A federal judge has yet to rule on the federalization lawsuit, even as federalization is set to start on Nov. 28.

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Bud Light Seafood Night Dinner Buffet
Fri. 9/11th 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm
at Minami Restaurant
Ladies Night
Sat. 9/12th 6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm
at PauPau Bar
Sunday Brunch
Sun. 9/13th 11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm
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For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

Tim asks court to return his boat or compensate him

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez has asked the federal court to dismiss the forfeiture case filed by the U.S. government against him and to return his boat to him or his representative.

Leilani V. Lujan, lawyer for Villagomez, also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI that in the event that a forfeiture is granted, it should issue an order to compensate Villagomez for the value of his interest in the boat.

"[Villagomez] is an innocent owner of the subject property and is entitled to an order of compensation in the event of forfeiture," said Lujan in court papers.

Villagomez

The lawyer said if her client prevails in the forfeiture case, Villagomez should be awarded attorney's fees, court costs, and interest.

Lujan asked the court to dismiss the forfeiture case on the grounds that it fails to state a claim, improper service of process, and improper venue.

The U.S. government filed a civil forfeiture against Villagomez's boat "Dr. V" on Aug. 6, 2009.

Two days later, the U.S. Marshal's Office took custody of the boat, a 1994 Yamaha 31-foot vessel. The boat is currently being held at Smiling Cove Marina.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson issued the warrant that commanded the U.S. Marshal's Office to seize the vessel.

Munson directed the U.S. Marshal's Office to use whatever means may be appropriate to protect and maintain the boat in their custody until a further court order.

Munson issued the warrant after the U.S. government filed the civil forfeiture.

FBI special agent Joseph Auther in his affidavit stated that during the trial of Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina Santos, it was established through testimony and documentary evidence that Villagomez purchased "Dr. V" in 2006 for a price of between $45,000 and $60,000.

Auther said the money to buy the boat was received from James Santos or his wife Joaquina Santos, as declared by Villagomez.

"There is reasonable belief that Dr. V. constitutes, or was derived from, proceeds from the crime," Auther said.

Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Joaquina Santos and James A. Santos were sentenced to six years and six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud CUC and the United States.

The defendants appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

MUSEUM

From Page 1

makers' hands.

That evening—Sept. 11, 2001—another camera finds firefighters trudging through dust-caked streets, carrying their helmets or a spare pair of shoes. The spindly facade of the World Trade Center is before them.

The new views of the terrorist attacks—one of the most recorded events of all time—are among hundreds of hours of amateur videos, images and stories gathered by the foundation building the memorial. The National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum is launching a Web site Thursday with its collection of citizen journalism of the tragedy and is appealing for more 9/11 stories from all over the world.

"They say that 9/11 was the most digitally documented event of all time," said Alice Greenwald, director of the planned museum. "There were vigils in Tehran, Berlin, London, Moscow, Tokyo. ... We're asking people everywhere to help us tell the story."

The foundation planned to announce its "Make History" campaign later Thursday. Its Web site includes a collection of dramatic, chaotically shot footage of the attacks.

The site has photographs, video and audio recollections by professional photographers, fleeing trade center workers and witnesses who recorded what they saw with cell phone and digital cameras.

Each photo is juxtaposed against current Google "Street View" photos of various locations. Users can click on locations, themes or time of day to view the footage or images.

The graphic images of hijacked jetliners crashing into the towers are among the accounts that will become an exhibit in the 9/11 museum when it opens in three years.

One victim's family member said the images wouldn't keep him away, saying the story of Sept. 11 must be as realistic and complete as possible.

Charles Wolf was in his Greenwich Village apartment in lower Manhattan when he saw an American Airlines jetliner pass overhead, then crash into the trade center—and his wife's office.

"I and many family members don't want revisionist history, and we don't want this sanitized," Wolf said. "It is very important that people remember what happened that day: This was civilization, people merely at work, caught up in religious fanaticism."

The foundation has acquired 500 hours of video archives assembled by Camera Planet, a private team of filmmakers who collected professional and amateur videos from the day and its aftermath.

They include a five-minute video shot in the streets of lower Manhattan around the site on the evening of the attacks, with office stairwells filled with reams of paper and half-open offices with family pictures still inside.

A dust-covered Brooks Brothers logo is in one frame under shattered windows. What appears to be an airliner seat is strewn in the street. "God Bless America! Unity!" is scrawled in the dust of one window.

"Got that?" one videographer asks on the video showing the explosion of the second tower when it's hit by the jetliner.

"What kind of crazy person would .... kill themselves?" another asks as the camera points at the two towers.

Some of the submissions already are on display at the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, opened last month near ground zero as a temporary exhibit until the memorial and museum are completed.

There, visitors can see a film of the attacks, with a live Webcam showing the ongoing construction on the former World Trade Center's 16 acres (6.5 hectares).

The memorial is expected to open on the 10th anniversary of the attacks in 2011, and the museum a year later. The names of nearly 3,000 victims of the attacks in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania, as well as those from the 1993 trade center truck bombing, will be around two waterfall-filled pools.

The 100,000-square-foot (9,290-square-meter) museum will reach 70 feet (21 meters) underground, tracing the towers' original footprints. Photographs of thousands of terrorism victims will be flashed on a mammoth wall, with each remembered in movies, photos and narration.

"There are negatives lying in drawers around the world" that have never been seen, said Michael Shulan, the foundation's creative director. "We're inviting the world to really respond."

MCS

From Page 1

vice president, Kevin Bautista, significant photographs of the event, dedicated poems, prayers, and the heroic acts of American citizens.

According to Maria Balajadia, president of the MCS Junior Statesmen of America, it is their objective to share with fellow students the importance of the 9-11 attacks to the history of the island and the nation.

Balajadia and Bautista were both in third grade when the terror attacks happened. They both felt that they didn't know much about the tragedy, prompting them to personally research the event.

"Now that we have a better understanding of the significance of this event, we want other students to also become aware of it. This changed the way government rule and people live," Balajadia said, adding that the exhibit will run until today in campus.

Balajadia said the group is planning to launch a bigger 9/11 commemoration next year by conducting an essay or poem writing competition for both students and youths in the community.

This is the second year the Junior Statesmen of America is spearheading the school's 9/11 commemoration.

MCS president Margaret C. Dela Cruz lauded the students-initiated activity.

"It really brings unity and peace. It reminds people that no matter where and what shape you are, when there's a tragedy, everyone comes together," Dela Cruz said.

Besides the exhibit, Dela Cruz said the student group is also active in school and community service programs.

Saipan Tribune learned that the students will be holding a mock election for governor prior to the Nov. 7 general elections in the CNMI. Balajadia said the activity will promote awareness among students on campus.

A MORE

From Page 1

United States taught him to become more alert not only in his job but also in his neighborhood and community.

For most people, however, the immediate impact of 9/11 was a fear of air travel, followed by unquestioning acceptance of the unprecedented levels of security measures that were implemented in all seaports and airports.

"Before 9/11, I used to travel by plane with no consideration of what might happen, but when the incident occurred it was like an eye opener for me," said Radbert Solomon.

This has made him more readily accept the enhanced security measures being implemented at airports. "We are able to travel with higher security and positive outlook. I'd rather go through all the hassles of security check and complying than having a similar incident happen," said Solomon.

For Maria Olatiman, 9/11 made "our country stronger against terrorism and we are fully conscious of what is going on around the world today."

Jocelyn Kaipat Aldan-Kapileo believes 9/11 was "an emergency call all over the world."

"I thank the Almighty for blessing us here on the island with high security in place. I thank the soldiers for taking the extra mile to keep us safe," she said.

When the 9/11 attacks occurred, Kikku was then the Chuuk DPS director. He recalled being kept busy informing the public about the terrorists attacks in the mainland and calming people down.

"We were alerting the people. We wanted to make sure that the State of Chuuk was safe, especially at the seaport and airport," he said.

Fr the first time, Kikku said, they put up a 24-hour security at their seaport and airport.

He said he since their resources were very limited then, he requested for financial assistance from the national government of FSM as well as from the U.S. Department of Interior to support trainings for their law enforcers.

Kikku said the trainings were needed in order to upgrade their skills and knowledge on how to guard against terrorists attack.

"We were really concerned about security measures," he said.

Considering that the U.S. is a very developed and advanced country, the fact that it became a victim of a terrorists attack forced Kikku to believe that even small islands and territories could be susceptible to such kinds of terrorism.

Like him, the people of Chuuk became security conscious because it was their first time to witness such an incident. "People demanded security at that time," he said.

In 2005, when a new administration in Chuuk stepped in, Kikku moved to Saipan and landed a job as one of the CNMI court marshals.

Now a deputy marshal on Saipan, Kikku said he still applies the lessons of 9/11 by being alert. "We're concerned about people coming in. We want the public to feel safe. It's our job to do it," he said. ***(With Jovan Fred)***

ALTERED

From Page 1

ers, or Osama bin Laden.

"And I didn't even know much about terrorism; that it's a big thing that needed our attention," Benjamin, now a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, said yesterday.

Now turning 24, Benjamin said were it not for 9/11—which the events of Sept. 11, 2001 became known for—and the loss of thousands of American lives in the war against terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, including that of his beloved uncle, Cpl. Derence Jack, he wouldn't have joined the U.S. Army Reserve.

"That made a major impact on my life and on the island, a real wake-up call to everybody—that soldiers are in harm's way, that it could happen to anybody," said Benjamin, who enlisted in May 2007.

He said when 9/11 happened, "the world stopped at one point" and then came change.

"If 9/11 didn't happen, I think I probably wouldn't have joined the service. 9/11 changed everybody, it changed views on freedom, on terrorism… and for those in the service, from the stories I hear from war veterans, being downranged isn't easy. You're separated from your family, you are there, but there's sense of accomplishment…You come out a different person," he said.

Benjamin said even those not in the service were and have been changed.

Six CNMI sons have been killed while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan since the War on Terror began.

"And we should pray for and remember those men and women who lost their lives, those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom and that of others… Let's not also forget those who are still in the service, those who served, and those who may be called any time to serve," said Benjamin, who is a health and safety coordinator at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

During yesterday's interview at the Red Cross office at the airport area, Benjamin showed a folded American flag that was raised in Kuwait and presented to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter by members of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry who returned to Saipan on Aug. 25. Dust and dirt from Kuwait could still be seen on the flag.

"It's truly an honor to get this flag from them," Benjamin added. "9/11 also made the community more proud of the American flag and what it means."

Housing perks for 200 hospital employees remain

Govt OKs reclassifying housing allowance to salary increase

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Off-island hires of the Commonwealth Health Center may now breathe a sigh of relief after acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan confirmed yesterday that their housing allowance will not be terminated.

This came about, Untalan said, after his meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, who agreed to retain the benefit in consideration of the hospital's critical staffing needs.

Of the over 400 CHC personnel, Untalan said that over 200 were hired from off-island. Most were lured to the island with the promise of free housing.

Saipan Tribune learned that hospital employees with dependents who are hired from off-island get an $800 monthly housing allowance; single employees get $500.

A number of CHC employees whose contracts were renewed in June lost this benefit after the government suspended paying for housing allowances due to declining revenues.

Since then, many hospital personnel have resigned or are considering resigning from their posts.

To stem any further losses in personnel, Untalan said they will be reinstating the benefit but, instead of classifying it as a "housing allowance" on the payroll, the amount will be added to the existing salary of each personnel.

"The amount will reflect as a salary increase or merit on top of their salary," Untalan said, adding that the Executive Branch is in the process of completing the "new policy." Untalan said the decision would stop CHC from losing institutional knowledge.

Untalan said that, unlike other agencies, healthcare doesn't have an immediately available workforce and the chronic shortage of personnel at DPH is due to the "unattractive salary offer" to qualified applicants.

For the over 200 off-island recruits, the housing benefit is only the "enticement" that the hospital could offer to qualified people to stay, he added.

A hospital staffer who has been with CHC for over 10 years is happy with the decision. "We're looking forward to the change in the policy," said the employee, who asked not to be identified.

The employee, who was among those who lost their housing allowance in July, said the loss exacerbated the already demoralized atmosphere among hospital staff, most of whom work long hours due to the shortage of manpower.

In other news, Untalan confirmed yesterday that Public Health Secretary Kevin Joseph Villagomez, who filed an indefinite leave of absence due to medical reasons, is scheduled to be back in two weeks.

Preview: House to vote on student aid bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said yesterday that he expects H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, to be acted on by the House of Representatives next week. Sablan is one of 22 original cosponsors of the bill.

"In terms of increasing the educational opportunities for people from the Northern Mariana Islands," said Sablan, "this is one of the most important pieces of legislation yet from the 111th Congress.

"And investing in education is the most important way to ensure a sound economy in our islands 30, 40, 50 years down the road."

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act reforms the way the federal government handles student loans. By cutting out the middle men in these transactions—banks and other private lenders—the federal government will save $87 billion over the next 10 years, according the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The money saved will go directly to students and schools instead of to financial institutions.

"Pell grants will be going up," Sablan said. "The maximum annual scholarship will rise from $5,500 in 2010 to $6,900 by 2019.

"And starting in 2011, Pell grants will be matched to rising costs-of-living plus 1 percent. This not only increases the dollar amount students will be eligible for, but also increases the number of students who will meet the income threshold to receive a scholarship."

The House Committee on Education and Labor, where Sablan is a member, estimates that in the Northern Mariana Islands 773 students will be eligible for a Pell grant in the 2010-2011 academic year, and an additional 192 students will be eligible over the next 10 years.

Students will find it easier and cheaper to borrow money for tuition, also. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid will be simplified. The low-cost Perkins Loan program will expand. And interest rates on federal student loans will be need-based and more affordable.

Students will also receive more support in school through the $750,000 grant the Northern Mariana Islands will receive to fund the College Access Challenge Grant program. The program offers matching challenge grants to encourage local governments and philanthropic organizations to invest in projects that help low-income students succeed in postsecondary school.

Typical projects offer student loan cancellation or repayment or interest rate reductions for borrowers who are employed in a high-need geographical area or a high-need profession, provide need-based grant aid, and conduct professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, financial aid administrators, and college admissions counselors. ***(PR)***

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Buying power weakens as prices go up

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The value of one's dollar bought fewer food and drinks, pumped lesser fuel in cars, and did little to cover for medical care in the CNMI during April to June compared to the same quarter last year, based on the latest consumer price index obtained from the Department of Commerce yesterday.

Commerce said it surveyed the prices of 1,176 consumer items—from rice to bottled water to clothing, butane gas and medicine—in close to 300 retail outlets and public and private service agencies.

The surveys determined surges in the costs of the most basic of consumer products.

The latest CPI reached 101.5 percentage points, a 1.2-percentage point increase from the same quarter last year.

Any increase in the CPI means a spike in the cost of most things CNMI residents spend their money on, including food, clothing, housing and utilities, fuel, and medical care.

"This means the buying power has diminished compared to the previous period. Except for one group of items, the rest increased in prices," John Blanco, director of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

The major groups of consumer items are divided into nine categories: food, alcoholic beverages, housing and utilities, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and other goods and services.

The food index posted the highest percentage-point increase in the second quarter, from 94.6 last year to 101.6 this year.

This was followed by a 4.5-percentage point increase in transportation items, from 98.8 to 103.4, due mostly to fuel price increases.

The alcoholic beverages index posted a 3.5-percentage point increase, from 102.8 to 106.5.

The CNMI's first CPI was developed during the early part of 1977, and was rebased in 2003 and 2008.

In the latest revision of CPI, Commerce made improvements that make it an even more accurate measure of price movement than ever before. It replaced a CPI that was used based on household expenditures on a 1997 survey.

In compiling the CPI, price movements for the different component items are combined using weights, which represent the relative importance of each of the components to a total expenditure of the population.

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Public hospital short of four doctors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center is short of four physicians right now due to the departure of some doctors who were discouraged by the uncompetitive salary for their services, according to acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan.

He disclosed yesterday that three doctors are badly needed for the Pediatric Department while one is needed for Internal Medicine.

Although the hospital is doing all it can to recruit the needed personnel, Untalan admits that they have yet to find anyone for these key positions.

"How badly do we need these doctors? We need them since yesterday…I wish I could say I can have them tomorrow," he said.

At present, the hospital has 30 to 32 physicians, most of whom are classified as full-time, part-time, or visiting doctors.

According to CHC Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom, all doctors at the hospital are putting in overtime and are enduring long hours of work.

He said they want to address this situation as soon as possible to prevent doctors from becoming too pressured and from burning out due to too heavy workloads.

"We need more doctors to retain our current doctors…and to open more clinics again," Brostrom said.

Athough DPH may find qualified physicians in the Philippines, Untalan admits that CHC is "limited" when it comes to hiring doctors from that country.

Untalan cited the several standards and requirements of the federal government and the federal granting agencies on the medical qualifications of doctors who will serve in U.S. jurisdictions.

"That's the reason [for CHC's limited ability to hire doctors from the Philippines]," he said.

When it comes to hiring doctors, the priority are applicants from the U.S. who have passed the requirements and obtained licenses from U.S.-accredited licensing boards and have practiced their profession in U.S. hospitals.

The CNMI Department of Public Health receives over $15 million under the Medicare and Medicaid programs every year. This translates to almost a third of the hospital's operational budget.

Tapping the services of private sector physicians and allowing them to be reimbursed for their services could help alleviate the impact of the shortage of doctors at the hospital, Untalan said.

"Everybody says let's increase the doctors' salary. But if you look at the bottom line, can this economy afford it?" Untalan asked, adding the best scenario is to work with the private sector and try to improve the economy.

"Allow them to be reimbursed for their services. …This whole thing is about opening access to care," he said.

As for complaints about long waiting hours at the hospital, Untalan said people must be informed about the function of emergency rooms.

"ER is not to cure long-term chronic problems such as diabetes and hypertension. People go there for short-term problems. Why don't we give those people the opportunity to access care at private health clinics?" he asked.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos poses with Department of Public Safety officials, officers, and staff after yesterday's proclamation during which Inos declared Sept. 12 to 18 as Child Passenger Safety Week. According to a CNMI survey conducted in 2008, the usage of child passenger safety seats is at 76 percent as compared to 39 percent recorded in 2007.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 11, 2000

Saipan braces for cleanup

Tropical storm Saomai left Saipan Friday, causing major ruins to vegetation and roads due to heavy downpour of rain that gripped the entire island. While declaring the islands safe from the recent storm, Emergency Management Office Director Greg A. Deleon Guerrero said the cleanup of washed-out roads should now be a priority in order to restore road safety for motorists. "We're back to normal but we have to free the roads from scattered debris, fallen rocks, coconut shells, and others. Most of what we had to deal with had to do with the floods. I have been out surveying areas with the governor and at the same time, we are also assisting flood victims," said Mr. Guerrero.

CPA owes signatory airlines $400K

The Commonwealth Ports Authority owes CNMI signatory airlines close to $400,000 in total credits for the payments they have made between March and June 2000, when airport departure fee was raised to $8.00 per passenger which the agency has retroactively rolled back to $5.79. A financial analysis report prepared by consultant Rex I. Palacios disclosed that as of June 30, 2000, rollback credits owed by CPA to international airlines amount to $385,676, and about $10,500 to commuter carriers. Japan Airlines, which has the highest passenger traffic count of 67,321, will be receiving $148,780 in total credits from the ports authority during the March-June 2000 period.

Sept. 11, 2001

Japan recession chokes NMI tourism

A three-pronged external force stalled the Commonwealth's once thriving travel industry, which recently underwent a major transition--from rapid growth to rapid decline. A comprehensive economic report prepared by Wali Osman of the Bank of Hawaii detailed the downfall of the CNMI's tourism sector, from the largest revenue-generating business activity to a heavily knocked-out industry. Osman noted several factors--including the decision of the Korean Airlines to suspend flights in the region, the Asian financial crisis and the ongoing stagnation in Japan--as the major factors that painted the gloomy picture of the island's hospitality sector.

Marijuana plantation discovered on Tinian

Operatives have scored one of the biggest drug bust in the CNMI when it discovered a marijuana plantation at the northern part of Tinian. The discovery was made by the Department of Public Safety on Tinian, said chief government prosecutor Kevin Lynch. Thirty-five-year-old Godfred Mendiola, the alleged owner of the plantation, was charged with manufacture of a controlled substance before the CNMI Superior Court. Lynch did not specify the size of the plantation, but stated in the complaint that it had 96 marijuana plants. Each plant alone may yield several grams of controlled substance, depending on the size of the plant.

Sept. 11, 2002

Sept. 11, 2001: A year after

The Northern Marianas was just starting to crawl out of the devastating impacts of the Asian currency crisis when it was hit by a much larger catastrophe that forever changed the landscape of the world's air transportation industry: the almost synchronized crash attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington DC. And as America scrambled to save lives trapped in the ruins of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Northern Marianas mourned with the world over the lives lost as it scuttled to save what was left of the ailing Commonwealth tourism industry.

NMI reminisces events of 9/11

Exactly one year ago, CNMI residents were glued to their television screens watching what used to be unimaginable of America's might: The twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York--symbol of the nation's economic activity--collapsing after being struck by terrorist-hijacked planes; and the Pentagon, symbol of the United States' military might, razing in fire. Thousands of people were killed-some jumped to death from high floors of the towers. Commonwealth officials and residents reminisce today the horrific attacks now known as 9/11, a day filled with solemn activities such as a Holy Mass and a candlelight vigil at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa starting at 6pm. Giant wooden ribbons painted with red, white and blue stripes draped with stars suggesting the image of the U.S. flag are to stand outside the Cathedral and the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

Final search for surfer fails

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The search teams failed in their final mission yesterday to find the missing Japanese surfer Hirofumi Matsumoto.

The search and recovery operation was terminated at 6pm yesterday evening, after being extended by one day.

Fumihiko and Fukie Matsumoto, the parents of the victim, who arrived from Tokyo Tuesday morning, held a vigil at Sugar Dock yesterday, where authorities had put up a command post to coordinate the search efforts.

Fumihiko Matsumoto told *Saipan Tribune* that they don't have a schedule yet as to when they will return to Japan.

The victim, Hirofumi Matsumoto, was an employee at Hyatt Regency Saipan. His wife, Ami, works at a tour agency at Hyatt.

Ami's parents arrived from Japan yesterday afternoon. Ami and her parents proceeded to Sugar Dock to await word about the status of the search.

Eight volunteers from the Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association joined the search operation yesterday, said Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong.

Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan said DPS dispatched two rescue boats—*Zodiac* and *McKee*.

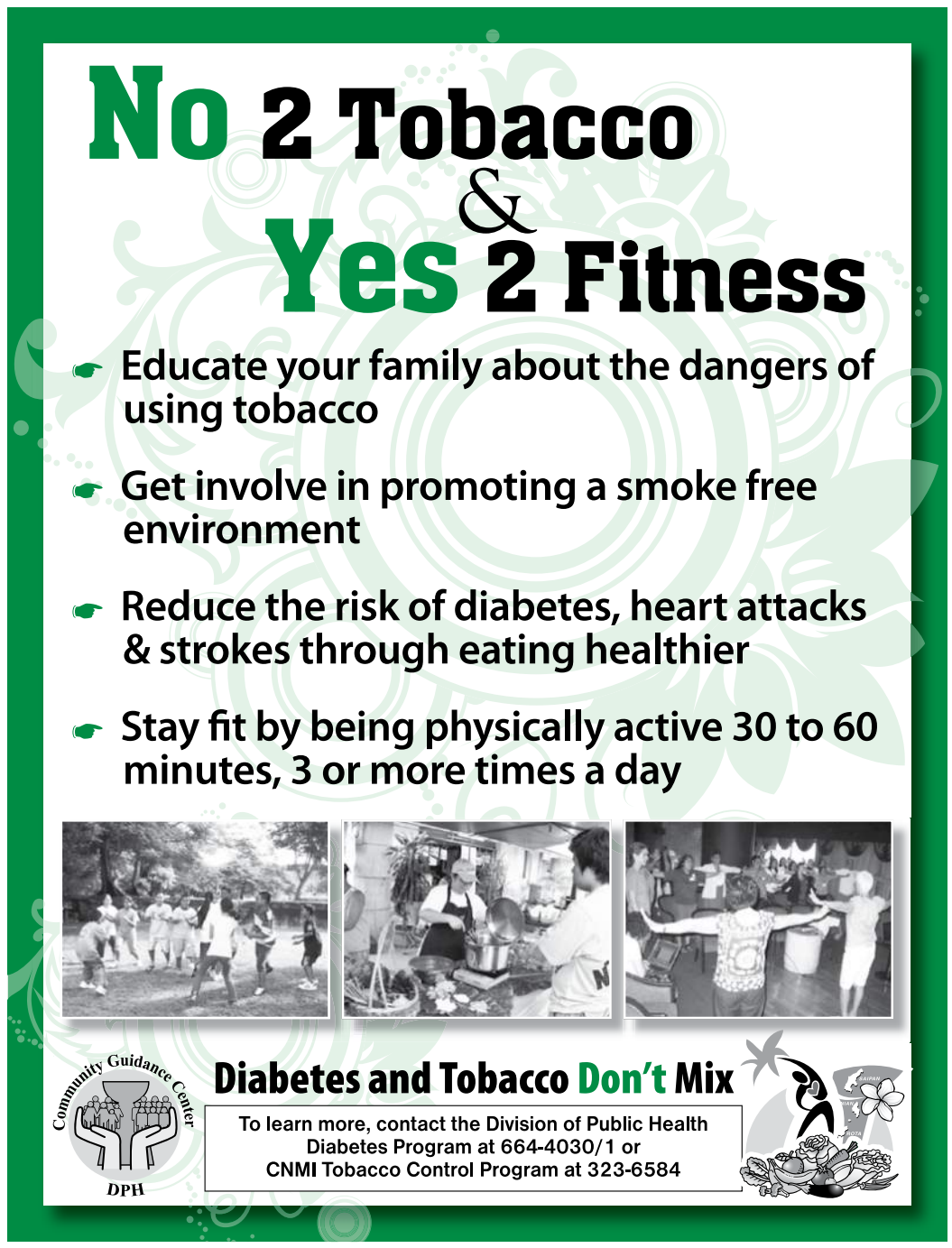
Coastal Resources Management divers also participated in the operation.

Pangelinan said the diving and surface search was done outside the reef from Sugar Dock channel south to San Antonio and to the Civic Center.

The Navy's helicopter and the U.S. Coast Guard's cutter did not join yesterday's final operation.

Police investigation showed that on Sunday at 4pm, Matsumoto was surfing with a male friend behind Aquarius Hotel when a strong current pulled the two outside the reef. The two attempted to fight the current by paddling south. After 30 minutes, Matsumoto's friend was able to catch a wave and paddled back to shore.

When the friend looked back, he could not see Matsumoto so he called police. On Tuesday morning, a DFS employee found Matsumoto's nine-foot surf board. The employee turned over the board to police Wednesday morning.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Educate your family about the dangers of using tobacco
Get involve in promoting a smoke free environment
Reduce the risk of diabetes, heart attacks & strokes through eating healthier
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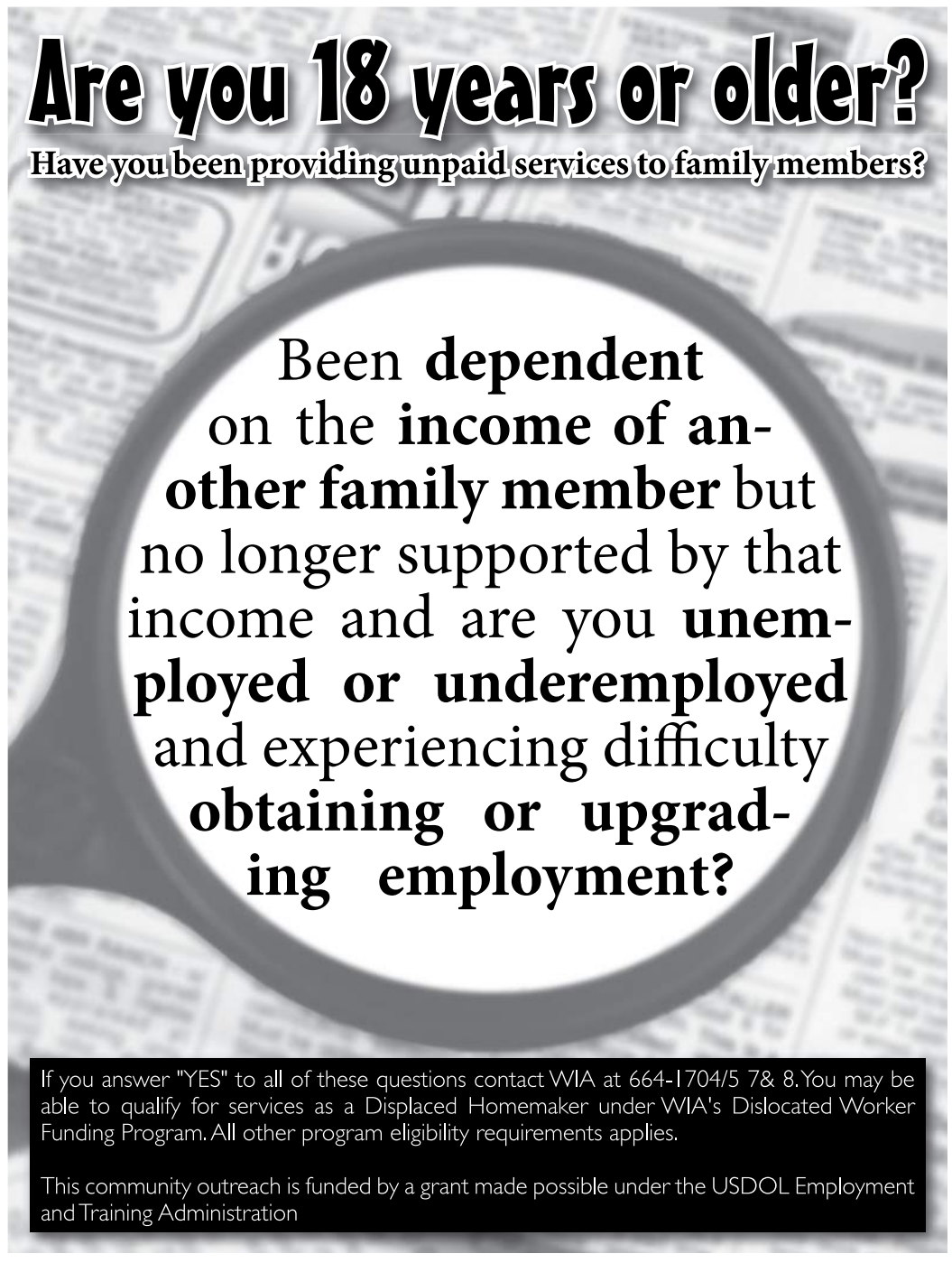
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Maddening paranoia

Stop the presses! In addressing the nation's schoolchildren on Tuesday, President Obama did not enlist them in the international communist conspiracy or even in a kiddie crusade on behalf of a public option in health insurance. Instead, the president's back-to-school speech was a pep talk combining the tenacity of Vince Lombardi ("The story of America isn't about people who quit when things got tough") and the tenderness of Mister Rogers ("Every single one of you has something that you're good at").

In the words of Jim Greer, the chairman of the Florida Republican Party, "it's a good speech. It encourages kids to stay in school and the importance of education. ..." This is the same Jim Greer who had warned that Obama wanted to "indoctrinate America's children to his socialist agenda." He justified his turnabout by citing (minor) changes in a lesson plan distributed to schools in connection with the speech. But even if the White House had stuck to the original wording of the materials—which asked students to "write letters to themselves about what they can do to help the president"—Greer's rant would have been out of bounds.

Though inspired by the health care debate, the fearmongering also reflects what historian Richard Hofstadter called the "paranoid style in American politics," an ancient, exasperating form of discourse consisting of "heated exaggeration, suspiciousness, and conspiratorial fantasy." Although he was writing during the ascendance of Goldwater Republicanism in the early '60s, Hofstadter argued that political paranoia was "not necessarily right-wing." Indeed, conspiracy theories also flourish on the left. This week, Obama accepted the resignation of Van Jones, his adviser on "green" jobs, after reports that Jones had signed a petition questioning whether the Bush administration may have "deliberately allowed 9/11 to happen, perhaps as a pretext for war." For every kook who trembles at the government's secret plan to build an illegal immigrant highway, there's another who believes Texas oilmen killed President Kennedy.

Why has the paranoid mentality become so prevalent and so insidious this summer? Some argue that Obama's exotic background engenders a special animosity. But George W. Bush also was outfitted with a metaphorical Hitler mustache. More likely, the rise in ideological "journalism" on cable TV and the Internet has exaggerated the natural skepticism with which Americans always have viewed their leaders.

That may be inescapable in a nation that once settled political disputes with duels and whose Founding Fathers were no strangers to scurrilous attacks. Still, it's depressing that the tenor of today's politics is such that some Americans spy a conspiracy when the president welcomes children back to school.

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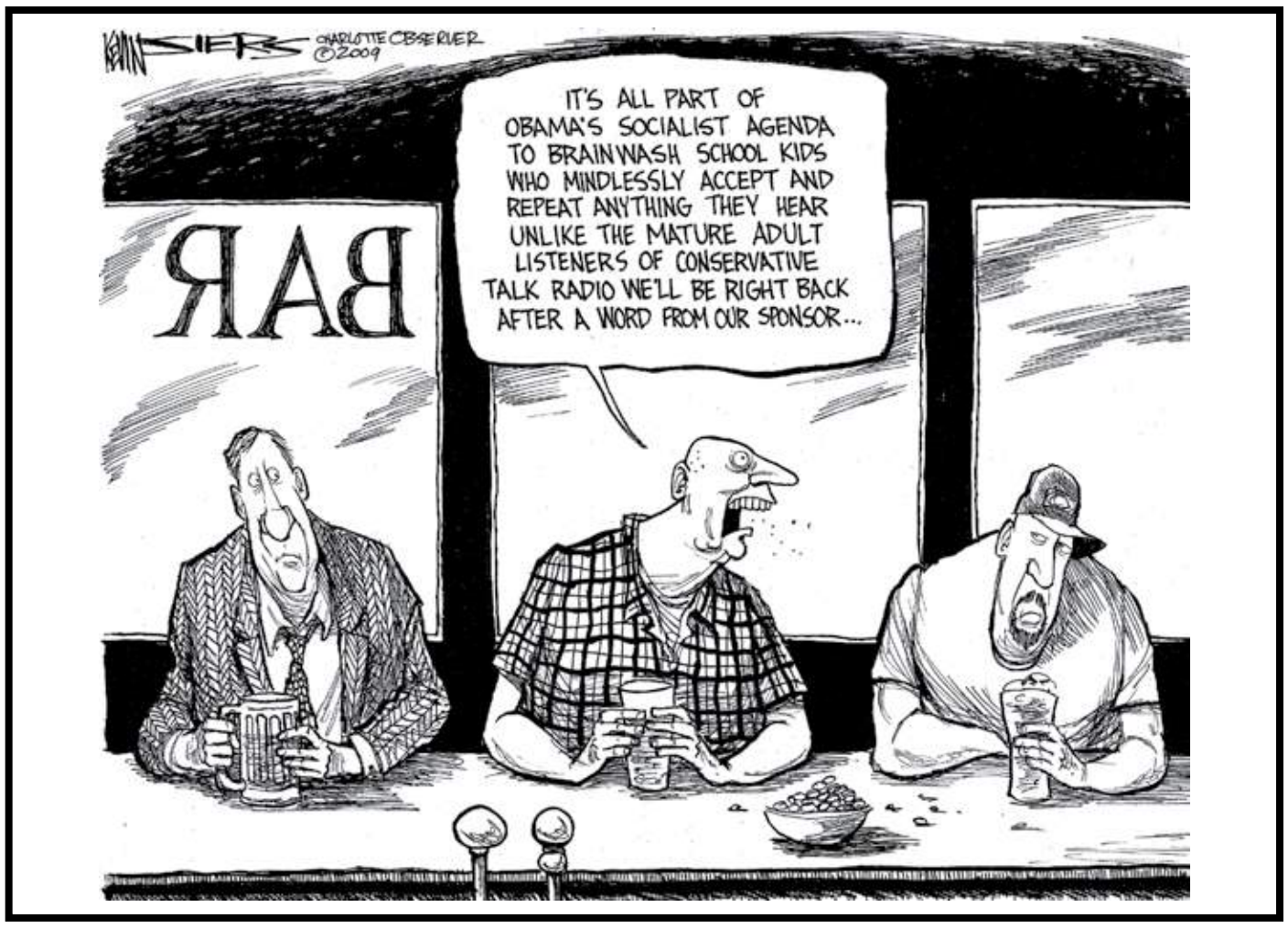
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BAR
IT'S ALL PART OF OBAMA'S SOCIALIST AGENDA TO BRAINWASH SCHOOL KIDS WHO MINDLESSLY ACCEPT AND REPEAT ANYTHING THEY HEAR UNLIKE THE MATURE ADULT LISTENERS OF CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR...

9/11

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Kübler-Ross model of the five stages of grief involves denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. A refinement with not a few dabs of humor circulated on Twitter, which produced the following steps: a) shock and denial, b) longing for the past, c) anger and FearUncertainty-Doubt (FUD), d) depression, reflection, and wonder, e) the upward turn, f) the turn gone wild, and g) acceptance and obliviousness.

Visiting New York City in April early this year, I reflected on the Ground Zero of the heartbeat of America, and decided, after people-watching along 42nd St. and its environs towards Uptown, that we were past the doom and gloom, blame and despair following the hole where the twin towers of the World Trade Center used to be located.

For the younger set who may not be chronologically familiar, 9/11 refers to the September 11, 2001 coordinated suicide attacks by Al-Qaeda operatives on the United States. Four commercial passenger jet airliners were commandeered and crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, with the fourth heading towards Washington, DC, but crashed into a field near Shanksville in rural Pennsylvania, after some of its passengers and flight crew attempted to retake control of the plane. There were no survivors from any of the flights.

Total casualties: 2,993 people, including the hijackers. The majority were civilians, including nationals of over 90 countries. The United States responded by launching a "War on Terrorism," invading Afghanistan and enacting the USA PATRIOT Act. The United States led many countries around the world to strengthen their anti-terrorism legislation and expanded law enforcement powers.

Eight years later, we commemorate that event and I listen for the heartbeat of America from the Metro rails and Muni tramcars of San Francisco.

That the fingerprints of fear and anger is indelibly etched into the American psyche are evident in many public places like airports, bus and train stations, libraries and public buildings, where posters encourages the public to be alert of "unusual and suspicious" parcels and persons, and not to hesitate to seek help if someone strongly senses that something is out of the common and ordinary. Distrust of strangers, aliens and foreigners has become not only a national policy but also every Mama's home advice to innocent children.

Understandably, fear, anger and humiliation accompanied 9/11, and as "victims," we have blamed everyone else for our misfortune, lashing at innocent populations, which only compounded our terror and multiplied our fears. We have even bent our otherwise rationale and democratic approach to legislation, into a new form of imperial mandates and theocratic doctrines in the conduct of public affairs. The language of ushering the apocalypse and Armageddon had even entered the lips and the documents of the highest offices of the land!

This is neither a judgment nor a condemnation of our actions as a nation, nor is it a valid justification for our stretching the limits of common decency and civility. We might want to inquire what in our national context was deeply addressed by 9/11, and what acts of self-conscious reflections have we engaged in so far to regain our sanity and arrive at an even keel in our social relations and public conduct.

Those of us who grew up under the influence of the Judeo-Christian tradition have this notion of being an exceptional people chosen by Providence to serve as a leaven and a beacon to the heathens of the world. "Manifest Destiny" was not an idle phrase in the repertoire of our vision and mission to the world!

The chosen people of the Torah brought that sense of chosenness to chilling efficiency in its exclusivistic and myopic treatment of Palestinians outside the Judaic pale of Zionist Israel. The understandable response of Ezra and Nehemiah of old after the Babylonian exile to recover Jewish identity, has been turned around to an accounting of ethnic purity that, ironically, Adolf Hitler of Germany would later use to promote Aryan superiority over the Semitic race.

Followers of the Nazarene Jesus would turn this chosenness into an inclusive acceptance of the gentile, the non-Jewish sector of society, particularly after the Fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, so that the lifestyle of *L'achaim,* the blessedness and graciousness of existence would have universal (catholic) application. It did not last long. Christo Rei soon took on an air of royal superiority all of its own. Chosenness as a tool for exclusion is a dead end; as a means towards humanity's inclusiveness, it carries great possibility and promise.

It is not that all Americans embraced the gloom and doom ethos, the habits of fear and terror, the practices of anger and humiliation of official post-9/11 America. There was not a shortage of words of caution and balance from many sectors, for the strength of America emanates from its diversity and openness. That the War on Terror dominated media and common discourse does not hide the fact that subterranean currents existed that called for social realism and objective assessment of the American soul.

One of those voices came from Andrew Bacevich. What is remarkable about this former Harvard, West Point, Princeton and Boston U professor, is that he is not your raving leftist ideologue. A West Point graduate, Vietnam and Gulf War veteran, and a retired Army Colonel, he was former director of the Center for International Relations and author of several books, including *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of US Diplomacy* (2002), *The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War* (2005) and *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* (2008). He called the U.S. occupation of Iraq a "catastrophic failure," described Bush's endorsement of "preventive wars" as "immoral, illicit, and imprudent," way before his namesake son died fighting in Iraq in 2007.

He reminded us again that for many, America was the New World

See 9/11 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Clothes make the man

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If you're looking for a refreshing flash of sanity right now, amidst the fog of goofy neurosis that has enveloped much of the world and its headlines, I'm happy to report that Bangladesh, once a minor source of workers for the CNMI, has scored a home run in my book.

Yes, Bangladesh. Thus wrote Eoin O'Carroll the *Christian Science Monitor* (Sept. 5): "In an inspiring display of sensibility, the prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, has ordered male government employees to stop wearing suits, jackets, and neckties."

The decree was issued in order to save power, since Bangladesh's hot climate means that haughty haberdashery requires lots of aircon.

I'm not suggesting that the CNMI government should do anything that resembles the Bangladesh policy, since it's not up to me to suggest what the CNMI does, or doesn't, do. Furthermore, there aren't enough neckties to really matter in the power use context. And, trust me, you wouldn't want me as arbiter of fashion issues: My idea of true classiness is Tila Tequila.

Anyway, here's more from O'Carroll, whose article offers some background on the Western dress habits now being questioned in Bangladesh: "The cravat eventually 'evolved' into the modern necktie, which was eventually paired with an outfit consisting of a heavy jacket and flimsy slacks, a design that guarantees that its wearer will be uncomfortable regardless of the ambient temperature."

Amen. Finally, somebody said what everybody else is thinking.

I wear neckties (when I wear neckties at all) because I'd get in trouble if I didn't wear a necktie.

Ditto for suits. A suit is just a social tax. With a suit, you pay hundreds of dollars for something that you wear because you have to, not because you like it and want to wear it.

For plebes like me who can usually get away without high falutin' attire, I think island style makes a lot more sense than the outside world does. On Saipan, you can usually wear normal clothes to work; after work, you don't have to change into something normal to wear; you're already wearing it. This is one item on my list of "pluses" I give to people who are contemplating moving to the Commonwealth. It might sound like a small thing, but it's not trivial. Unless you've got the kind of job that I keep auditioning for but never get, you spend most of your life wearing clothes, so, even if we don't formally heed the fact, they are an important element in comfort and, hence, quality of life.

In the big city, a lot of people have two entirely different wardrobes; work stuff, and normal stuff.

This can be a problem, and if not a big one, then at least a solidly irritating one, if you have to scoot from Saipan to the Big City where you're expected to play dress-up. For one thing, letting an expensive suit languish in a closet, unless you keep the aircon on all the time, is going to result in a musty, wooly mess. For another thing, packing a suit is a pain, since they take up so much doggone room.

Since I don't like to check luggage, my solution to this problem was to pre-position "good clothes" in parts of the world where I'd need them. This can create some interesting misunderstandings. Fortunately, divorce subpoenas don't cross international lines.

I thought I had an elegant, or at least a sneaky, solution to this. During my travels, I once picked up a used, five dollar, 100 percent polyester (accept no substitutes), dark blue blazer. It can be wadded up and stuffed into any suitcase crevice, with nary a wrinkle.

So when I had to go to the mainland for a magazine assignment, I coupled this miracle jacket with cotton twill khaki trousers, and I put a buff shine on my black chukka shoes, so I didn't have to pack fancy shoes either. I thought this was a pretty slick way to put a presentable facade on what was mostly just island attire. I thought I was sticking it to The Man. As it turns out, I looked like a homeless guy trying to sneak into an uptown hotel buffet.

Lesson learned on that note: Although fashion is nothing but fakery, you can't fake it.

What is the Bahá'í Faith?

BETTER LIVING

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is the co-founder and medical director of Marianas Eye Institute. He is the author of the book, World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails, which is available on Amazon.com and at Marianas Eye Institute. Dr. Khorram can reached by email by visiting www.MarianasEye.com, or by phone at 670-235-9090. *© David Khorram, 2009.*

A close friend of mine recently said to me, "You know David, most people really don't know what the Baha'i Faith is all about." I was a bit surprised to hear this, but I knew it was true. After all, when I mention to people that I am a Baha'i, there is often a puzzled look on their faces. Most people seem to have the impression that the Baha'is are a good bunch of people, working in some way toward peace. But beyond that, most people don't have an understanding of the basic principles of the Baha'i Faith. This realization was a bit surprising to me because the Encyclopedia Britannica lists the Baha'i Faith as the second most widespread religion after Christianity. And The LA Times noted that the Baha'i Faith is among the top two fastest growing religions in the world.

When someone asks me, "What is the Baha'i Faith?" The brief explanation that I give goes something like this: The Baha'i Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all peoples and races. Baha'is are the followers of Baha'u'llah, whom they believe is the Promised One of all ages. The traditions of almost every people include the promise of a future time when peace and harmony will be established and humankind will live in prosperity. Baha'is believe that the promised hour has come and that Baha'u'llah is the great personage whose teachings will enable humanity to build a new world.

This brief explanation raises a few key points. First, the Baha'i Faith is an independent world religion. It is not an offshoot, sect or denomination of another Faith. Second, its purpose is to establish unity among the peoples and races of the world. Third, the Baha'i Faith accepts Baha'u'llah as the one whose teachings will establish the long-awaited peace on earth. It's a large claim for sure, and most people are rightfully skeptical at first. But millions of people find it a claim worth looking into.

Baha'u'llah teaches that there is a source of creation that we call "God." Yet God is unknowable in his essence. Our finite minds cannot fully grasp God and we should not make images of God in our mind, thinking of him, for example, as a man.

Baha'u'llah teaches that throughout the course of history, God has given humanity guidance. This guidance comes to humanity through the Manifestations of God—those special beings who revealed (or "manifest") to humanity the word and the will of God. History knows them as the founders of the world's great religions: Krishna, Buddha, Moses, Christ, Muhammad, and Baha'u'llah. This idea that a single God has sent these various Manifestations of himself to humanity is a fundamental teaching of the Baha'i Faith. Baha'is accept the divinity of all of these individuals, that they all speak with the same authority, and that they have progressively revealed the will of God to humanity.

According to Baha'u'llah, the Manifestations of God all have the same purpose—to bring God's guidance to humanity. Their spiritual teachings remain the same: develop your virtues—love, kindness, justice, compassion. However, their social teachings, those that guide the complexities of society, are not the same. The social teachings change in accordance to the circumstances of the times: one says you can divorce, another says you can't. Eat pork; eat what you want. Have four wives; don't have four wives. These differences exist not because of intrinsic differences between the Manifestations or of their source. The differences in the social teachings exist only because of the changing circumstances of humanity at a particular time and place in history. Math in one grade is different from math in another grade, not because the teachers are in conflict, but because the students are different. The religions are not really different religions. They are stages of one common faith, like the chapters in the same book.

When Baha'u'llah appeared in the mid-1800s, he claimed to bring God's message that humanity would soon be moving into a global age, and that new teachings were required to govern a global society. He spoke of the need to recognize the oneness of humanity, the oneness of God, and the oneness of religion. Those who accept his claims do not think of him as an enlightened or prescient man, but regard him as the most recent of the Manifestations of God, who has come to usher in the universal age of peace and unity.

I hope that these basic teachings of the Bahá'í Faith help make it less of a mystery to you.

Letter to the Editor

Fairness for our soldiers

Dear Congressman Sablan and Congresswoman Bordallo: I write to ask you to inquire into two separate issues of fairness regarding our CNMI 442nd Unit soldiers. These men were deployed to serve their country along with troops of the 100th Bn from Guam and Hawaii. There seems to be some significant differences in the way these two groups of soldiers have been treated.

As an example, it seems the CNMI 442nd ECHO Company lost four precious days of their terminal leave while awaiting transportation out of Texas after processing out. While they sat for four days waiting for a second-rate, no-frills charter plane, their counterparts from Guam and Hawaii left immediately from Texas on legacy carrier Continental Airlines, to be whisked to their homes immediately and in style. Both groups of troops endured a long period of sacrifice for their country. Why are they treated differently when they muster out? Why the breakdown in logistics? The CNMI 442nd Echo Company should be given a four-day credit to their terminal leave and an apology would not be out of line either.

Another example harkens back to payroll issues during their joint training at Hunter-Ligget, California, in July of 2008. Soldiers from both groups were in training prior to deployment to the Middle East. The Guam and Hawaii boys got paid in advance and regularly thereafter while the CNMI soldiers went for weeks without being paid at all, causing many to have to fork out or borrow money to pay bills and buy food for their families back home. Why would there be this major discrepancy in the way these troops were treated? No wonder the sadness and fatigue of our CNMI boys clearly showed on their faces upon their arrival.

Soldiers expect hardship; it comes with the territory. But they also expect fairness. They expect, and rightfully so, to be treated equally and fairly along with the rest of the troops serving their country. This has not been the case with the 442nd Echo Company. I feel that this practice of differential treatment should stop and not be an issue again in future deployments of our CNMI citizen soldiers.

Your inquiry into these matters would surely lift up the morale of our boys and would be greatly appreciated.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres
Capital Hill, Saipan

9/11

From Page 10

where the promise of New Jerusalem and confidence of "In God We Trust" was the nation's unofficial but operative context. And that humpty-dumpty post-9/11 has come tumbling down.

The transport clientele scampering about BART in the Bay Area have more immediate and close-to-home struggles with the current economic recession/depression, and the existential angst is more in the direction of health care, education and social security, but a turning has occurred. American exceptionalism, our religious-secular American version of chosenness, was called to account by 9/11. We are as a people reformulating our story and structures so that perhaps, the energy and creativity that once propelled us to the creation of a new world would recover its inclusiveness, openness, and grace.

Looking lost at the BART this morning, around the 19th St. station downtown Oakland, I was approached by a young student, and undeterred by a stranger, she asked: Do you need assistance? She's Mongolian. There is hope. Let 9/11 be a reminder of an event, but no longer a curse! We are alive; let us graciously accept our cosmic acceptance!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

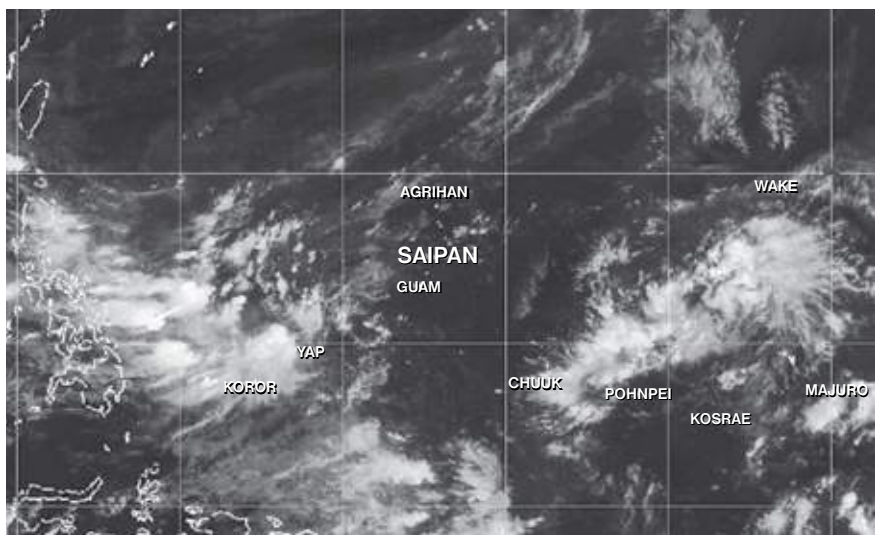
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲62	▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲82	▼61
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲81	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲73	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Rain	▲68	▼61
Osaka	Cloudy	▲81	▼62
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼56
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼62
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲91	▼53
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲82	▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲79	▼54
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Luzon through a circulation centered just north of Yap near 11N140E to end at EQ146E. Converging winds south of the monsoon trough and near the circulation are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau and near Yap and southward toward the equator between 1N and 3N from 140E to 145E and east of the monsoon trough between the equator and 2N from 148E to 150E. In addition scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northeast of the monsoon trough within 100 miles of a line running from 17N131E to 14N138E. A surface through runs from 5N151E to 19N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found mainly south of the trough axis within 150 miles of a line from 7N152E to 16N168E. This area includes Chuuk and is northwest of Pohnpei and Kwajelein. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Majuro between 4N and 8N from 168E to 178E and between 5N and 11N from 178E to beyond 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:04 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:11 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:03 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:14 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:04 PM	11:35 AM
Saturday		12:36 PM
Sunday	12:04 AM	1:36 PM
Monday	1:07 AM	2:33 PM
Tuesday	2:11 AM	3:26 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

American Memorial Park to be featured in US quarter

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Mint said yesterday that the nation will honor the American Memorial Park in the Northern Mariana Islands through its new quarter-dollar coin program.

The American Memorial Park design will be the 47th to be featured on coins released under the U.S. Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program, and will be issued in 2019.

American Memorial Park honors the American and Marianas people who gave their lives during the Marianas Campaign of World War II. More than 5,000 names are inscribed on a memorial that was dedicated during the 50th anniversary of the Invasion of Saipan. Within the 133-acre boundary are beaches, sports fields, picnic sites, boat marinas, playgrounds, walkways, and a 30-acre wetland and mangrove forest. It was established as a national site in 1978.

The U.S. Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program is a multi-year initiative authorized by Public Law 110-456—the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008. The Act directs the U.S. Mint to mint and issue 56 circulating quarter-dollar coins with reverse (tails side) designs emblematic of a national park or other national site in each state, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories—Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

A new quarter will be introduced approximately every 10 weeks for 11 years. The 56 coins will be issued sequentially in the order in which the featured location was first placed under the care of the federal government.

The coins' obverse (heads) will feature a restored version of the familiar 1932 portrait of George Washington, including subtle details and the beauty of the original model.

The complete National Site Registry, which lists all 56 sites to be honored under the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program in chronological order by year, is available at http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/?action=siteRegister.

"These new quarters will honor some of our most revered, treasured and beautiful national sites—majestic and historic places located throughout the United States and its territories that truly make us 'America the Beautiful,'" U.S. Mint Director Ed Moy said. "The designs will help reinvigorate interest in our national parks, forests, fish and wildlife refuges, and other national sites, as well as educate the public about their importance to us and our history."

Secretary of the Treasury Timothy F. Geithner approved the list of sites recommended by the U.S. Mint on Aug. 25, 2009, after consultation with the governor or chief executive of each host jurisdiction and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

"The America the Beautiful series demonstrates our nation's commitment to the legacy of conservation while celebrating its natural beauty," said U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios. "Like other commemorative coins, these quarters will be a valuable addition to the U.S. Mint's collection."

"Since our nation's founding, our coins have celebrated American ideals such as liberty and justice, our rich history and heritage, and the great Presidents and other leaders who have guided us," Salazar said. "I am pleased that these new quarters will now celebrate America the Beautiful, the spectacular natural wonders that are found in our national parks, wildlife refuges and public lands."

"From Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon to White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, America's landscape is blessed with unmatched beauty," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who oversees the National Forest Service, said. "Our national forests are national treasures and honoring them is an important step in preserving them for future generations." ***(U.S. Mint)***

ON THE NET

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/?action=siteRegister
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm.
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm

HOW TO ORDER

Beginning today, customers may sign up to receive the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters released each year through several new Online Subscription Programs–a two-roll set (one roll of 40 coins with the "P" mint mark for Philadelphia and one roll of 40 coins with the "D" mint mark for Denver); 100-coin bag (P); 100-coin bag (D); two 100-coin bags (P and D); 1,000-coin bag (P); 1,000-coin bag (D); two 1,000-coin bags (P and D); United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Proof Set™; and United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Silver Proof Set™, with the five coins struck in 90 percent silver.

To place subscription orders for these products, visit the United States Mint Web site at www.usmint.gov/catalog or call 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may order by calling 1-888-321-MINT (6468). Prices for these products have not yet been established. However, similar product prices are $32.95 each for the two-roll sets and 100-coin bags; $309.95 each for the 1,000-coin bags; $65.90 each for the two 100-coin bags; $619.90 each for the two 1,000-coin bags; $14.95 for the proof set; and $29.95 for the silver proof set.

In addition to the coins for circulation, the Mint will produce collectable items including proof sets, silver proof sets, a five ounce silver bullion coin, coin bags, and coin rolls for each quarter. For more information about the America the Beautiful Quarters Program, visit http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm.

For more information about the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program, visit http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm.

Giant rats discovered in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—It sounds like something from a horror movie—a rat as big as a domestic cat. But this is no fur-covered nightmare from fiction. The giant rodent really exists.

For the moment, however, it won't be infesting the drains of our major cities. The new species was discovered in a remote rain forest in Papua New Guinea.

The mammal, which has been named the Bosavi Woolly Rat, is one of the biggest rats in the world, measuring just over 32 inches (85cm) from nose to tail and weighing 3lb (1.36kg).

It was found in the crater of the extinct volcano Mount Bosavi. The silvery grey rat has dense fur and its teeth suggest it has a largely vegetarian diet and probably builds nests in tree hollows or underground.

The Bosavi Woolly was discovered by a team from the BBC's natural history unit as they searched for new wildlife while filming the series Lost Land Of The Volcano.

During the trip to a little-known part of the rain forest, the team also found about 40 other new species, which are at various stages of verification.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings going out to Emy Made. May you have a wonderful and enjoyable day and may all your wishes come true. Greetings come from Pauline and Harley.

Happy 17th birthday P.J. Pua Mingefiiy! Wishing you all the best, enjoy your very special day and many more wonderful birthdays to come. From: Mom, Dad, Nieces and Nephews and last but not the least your lovely sisters.

Child Passenger Safety Week
September 12 – 18, 2009

Child restraints work best when used correctly.

Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For proper instructions please visit our child passenger safety website. www.nhtsa.gov/cps

Failure to read and follow the child safety seat instructions, in addition to vehicle owner manual instructions regarding installation, could result in serious injury or death as a result of a failure of the child safety seat to be securely or properly restrained.

NHTSA recommends that children who have outgrown their child safety seats should ride in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" or taller.

Children under 13 are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

■ Tinian: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 1pm to 3pm, Northern Marianas College-Tinian Instructional Site, Room D

■ Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

■ Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. (OPA)

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort job fair in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will be having a job fair at the Kagman Community Center on Sept. 15, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. There will be many job openings for Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort's Hotel. Please bring your resume and dress appropriately. ***(PR)***

Tinian High PTA meeting

This is to remind all parents/legal guardians and staff of Tinian High School that the PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7pm at the THS cafeteria. Agenda will include Election of Officers for SY09-10. Please call Herman Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas, Lynette Hofschneider, Annie King or Rose Lazaro or THS office at 237-4167 if any questions. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon today

Puengin Inetnon will be held again today, Sept. 11, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. There will be vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will also be there.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications.

Kagman Saturday Flea Market tomorrow

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held tomorrow, Sept. 12, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for more info.

Nominees sought for Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

Nominations may be submitted in one of five categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities; Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Outstanding Humanities Teacher (both classroom and non-classroom settings); Preservation of CNMI History; and Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

The Lifetime Achievement will go to a nominee who has made significant contributions in the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

The Council must receive nomination forms and accompanying supporting documentation no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 9, 2009. Nomination forms are available at the Council's new office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or from its website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

Guerrero/Borja team to speak on Chamorro radio talk show

The Chamorro radio talk show program called, "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Dr. David Borja, on Magic 100.3 FM on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, between 9am to 11am in the morning. Discussions will be on social, economic, political and cultural issues facing the Commonwealth today. The phone line at the radio station will be open for question during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. (PR)

John Gonzales Live schedule

■ Sept. 16: LIVE – Replays 9/20 and 9/21 @ 7-8 pm

PSS Headstart Program and Early Childhood Intervention Services: Mandates, & Expected Goals to be Achieved in School Year 2010. Guests: Keiko A. Yamagata, director, PSS Headstart Program; Suzanne Lizama, director, PSS Early Childhood Intervention Services.

■ Sept. 23: LIVE – Replays 9/27 and 9/28 @ 7-8 pm

Beach Road Corridor Revitalization and Adult Business Overlay Zoning Projects. Guests: Henry S. Hofschneider, Saipan Zoning board chairman; Victor Barrett, Saipan Zoning administrator; Joe Limes, Saipan Zoning board member.

■ Sept. 30: LIVE – Replays 10/4 and 10/5 @ 7-8 pm

Featuring Covenant Party Precinct III candidates' vision and platform. Guests: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Edmund S. Villagomez, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, and Henry K. Rabauliman.

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2; LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

■ John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)

■ Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)

■ John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)

■ Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)

■ Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

Car seat, seatbelt checkpoints set

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on Saipan in the next few days as part of the "Child Passenger Safety Week" on Sept. 12-18, 2009.

Courtesy Car Seat Inspection:

■ **Sept. 12, 2009:** Courtesy car seat inspections will be held at the Price Costco parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, from 11am to 4pm.

■ **Sept. 20, 2009:** Courtesy car seat inspections will be held at the Joeten, Shopping Center, Susupe parking lot on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, from 11am to 4pm.

OP/CR Checkpoint:

■ **Sept. 12, 2009:** The first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Chalan Laulau by the B&R Auto Shop, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Garapan by Bank Pacific, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ **Sept. 14, 2009:** The first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Chalan Laulau by the residence of the late Dr. Kaipat, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, by Sherwin Williams, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ **Sept. 16, 2009:** The first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, by the Army Reserve, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Road, Chalan Kiya, by the Waterloo, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ **Sept. 18, 2009:** The first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Susupe, by the Multipurpose Center, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa by New Fresh Market from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ **Sept. 19, 2009:** The first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Garapan, by Bank Pacific, from 9am to 10:15am. The second set up will be on Beach Road, San Jose, by Morgan Building, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition, Police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions. ***(DPS)***

Tinian DPS sets checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on the island of Tinian as part of the "Child Passenger Safety Week" on Sept. 12-18, 2009.

The courtesy car seat inspections will be held at the Tinian DPS parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, from 8am to 3pm.

The first occupant protection child restraint checkpoint will be held on Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, along Broadway Road, by former Tinian Democrat headquarters, from 11:30pm to 12:45pm.

The second OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, along Broadway Road, by the baseball field in San Jose Village, from 11am to 12:15pm.

Each checkpoints conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. For more information, contact Sgt. Elloy Fitial or PO3 Wally F. Villagomez at 433-9222 or 433-2041. ***(DPS)***

Coconut Festival set on Rota

The inaugural CNMI Coconut Festival will kick off on the island of Rota this Friday, Sept. 11, 2009. The various uses of "tronkon niyok" (coconut tree) will be the star of the festival, from food to building materials.

"We, here in the Marianas oftentimes take for granted the many blessings in our midst and need only an occasion to remind us. Hence, the coconut tree festival in which I foresee to be the opportunity to showcase such an occasion. The coconut tree is life sustaining tree where one can readily harvest and extract all its goodness" Rota Mayor Joseph Inos said.

Judging and presentation of huts will be held on the same day including visits by students from the Public School System. A coconut food competition will also be held in the Night Market between 6:30pm and 10:30pm.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, the event starts at 10am. Arts and crafts competition and awards presentation will also be announced.

"Many visitors are expected to grace our shores, along with media personnel from Guam, Chamorro clubs, students who share in this cultural theme of preservation and many other cultural entities and organizations," said Inos. "We look forward to having spirited competitions in the arts and crafts, cooking, and a host of coconut-inspired fun games ithat any visitor and tourist alike can participate." ***(PR)***

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UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
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2X4X14 - $3.90	2X4X14 - $3.90
2X4X16 - $4.50	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.00	2X4X18 - $8.80
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X4X20 - $9.60
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $10.90

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TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	~~10,799~~	8,599
R09-010F	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	59360	SILVER	ADO-711	~~11,999~~	9,999
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	20421	WHITE	ADW-292	12,399	
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	18092	RED	ACH-404	12,399	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	29173	WHITE	ACD-727	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	26200	WHITE	ACD-687	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	25037	BLUE	ACG-450	11,499	
TOYOTA SUVS								
N/A	2006	RAV4 4X4 LTD	AUTO	58313	SILVER	ACE-760	13,399	
GM CARS								
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	7,499
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U09-045T	2003	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR	AUTO	48440	GREEN	ABX-844	~~6,999~~	5,999
GM VAN								
R09-009F	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	142674	WHITE	BUS-1079	5,999	
R09-013F	2005	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	77384	WHITE	BUS-1200	7,999	
N/A	2007	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	55365	WHITE	BUS-1223	18,399	

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TOYOTA ACDelco

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704;1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

'Uighurs agree to go to Palau'

In this file photo taken on June 15, 2009, a gardener works at the Palau Capital building in Melekeok, Palau. AP

KOROR, Palau (AP)—Three Chinese Muslims imprisoned for years at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay have agreed to be released to the tiny Pacific nation of Palau, their lawyers told The Associated Press.

The deals struck with U.S. officials this week are the first among a group of 13 Uighur detainees at Guantanamo who have been offered relocation to Palau under President Barack Obama's plans to close the controversial prison in Cuba. Negotiations are continuing with the rest of the group.

Relocating the Uighurs would bring the Obama administration a step closer to its goal of finding new homes for terrorism suspects and others captured in Afghanistan who have been cleared of wrongdoing but cannot go home for fear of persecution.

But it has also raised tension with Beijing, which regards the inmates as terrorist suspects and wants them returned to China.

George Clarke, the lawyer for two of the Uighurs, Dawut Abdurehim and Anwar Assan, said they had both recently formally accepted Washington's offer to relocate them to Palau. Eric Tirschwell, the lawyer for four other Uighurs at Guantanamo, said one of his clients had also accepted the offer.

"They're excited," Clarke told The Associated Press by telephone from Washington. "They want to get the heck out of Guantanamo Bay. They look forward to getting to Palau and getting on with their lives."

A State Department official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity because talks with other Uighurs are continuing, confirmed "some of the Uighur detainees have agreed to resettlement in Palau" but declined to give details.

Uighurs who have accepted the relocation offer could be transferred to Palau as soon as October, Clarke said.

The 13 Uighurs (pronounced WEE'-gurs), Turkic Muslims from far western China, have been held by the United States since their capture in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001. The Pentagon determined last year they were not "enemy combatants," but they have been in legal limbo ever since.

Mark Bezner, the top American official in Palau, said Wednesday he had not yet received formal notification on the Uighurs. "Perhaps we'll get a confirmation in the next couple of days from Washington," he said.

Tirschwell declined to reveal which of his clients has agreed to the deal, but said "he's looking forward to enjoying the freedom that he deserves and that he's been denied for almost eight years." The lawyers also declined to give details of agreements struck with U.S. officials.

Of the 10 other Uighur detainees remaining at the U.S. military base in Cuba, none have ruled out moving to Palau. Attorneys representing the other men declined to comment or did not return messages left by AP.

Palau, a developing country of 200,000 that is dependent on U.S. development funds, in June offered to take the Uighurs at Guantanamo.

Palau's President Johnson Toribiong told the AP at the time that some of the men were concerned about his country's relative proximity to China—it lies about 500 miles (800 kilometers) east of the Philippines. U.S. officials insisted they would be safe there.

Clarke has said previously that the detainees had been concerned about whether they would be allowed to travel after getting settled in Palau. His clients hope eventually to make the Hajj, or holy pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The Uighurs will not be eligible for Palauan passports but the government has said the men would be free to travel so long as another country accepted them.

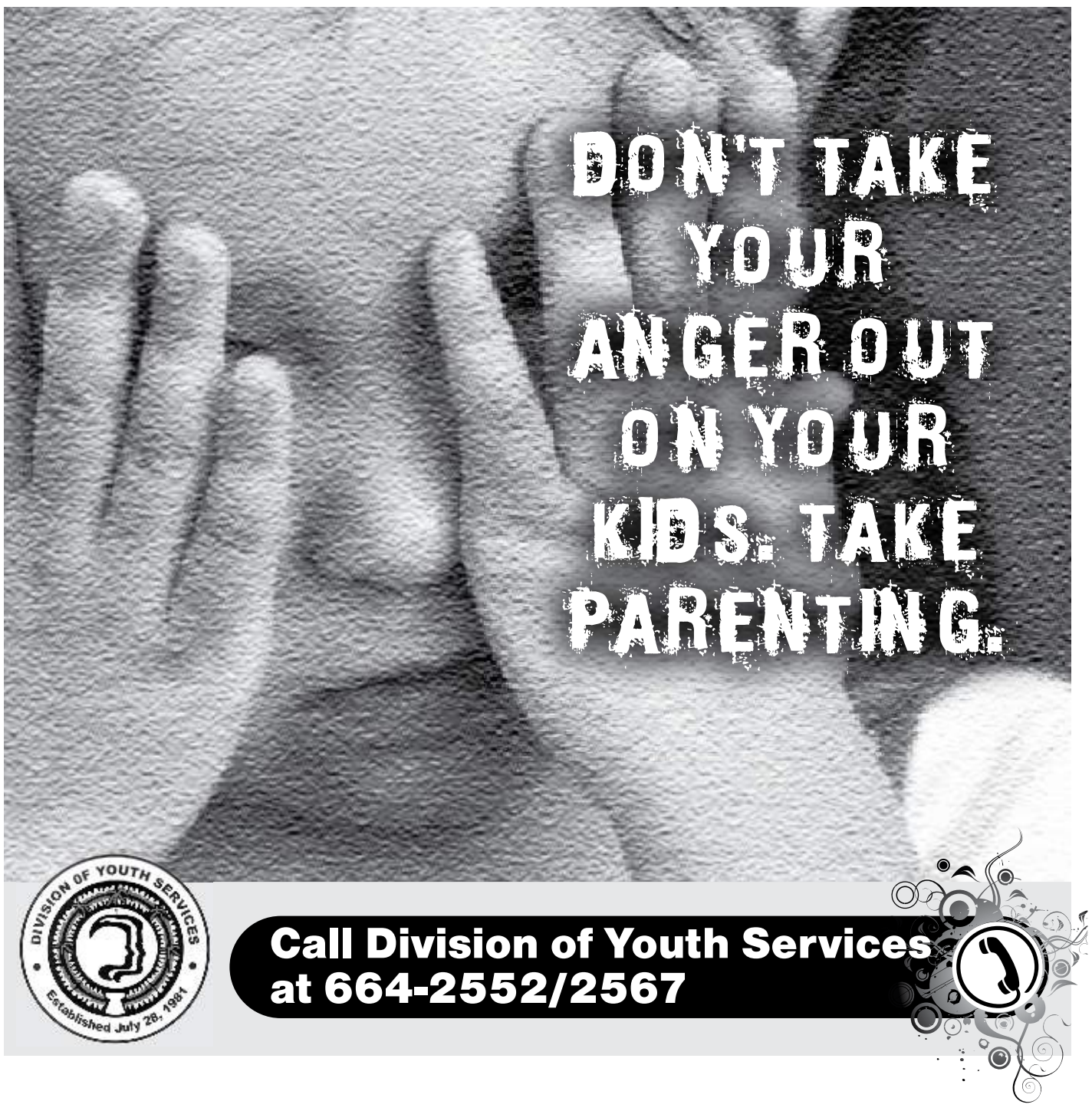
No Uighurs currently live in Palau, though there is a Muslim population of about 400—mostly Bangladeshi migrant workers.

The agreements need U.S. Congressional approval before the move can go ahead, a process that is expected to take about two weeks.

Isaac Soaladaob, chief of staff to Toribiong, said the government had not been informed yet of any formal agreements but that the country was expecting the Uighur relocation plan to go ahead.

"We know that a number of men plan on coming and we are working on the technical aspects of their arrival," Soaladaob said.

Four other Uighurs held prisoner at Guantanamo Bay were resettled in Bermuda in June.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OSHA cites 6 Guam firms for safety, health violations

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has proposed penalties totaling $116,600 against a general contractor and five subcontractors for 61 alleged safety violations found during a March inspection at the Charthouse Condominium Project in Tumon, Guam.

OSHA cited general contractor Paxia Builders Inc. and five subcontractors with 53 serious, seven repeat and one other-than serious violations for failing to provide eye and head protection, lack of fall protection, unprotected exposed rebar, various equipment safety concerns, lack of required safety training and fire prevention measures, failure to maintain safety and health programs or conduct regular safety inspections at the jobsite, and a variety of sanitation-related violations.

"The workers at this construction site were exposed to multiple serious safety and health violations," said Ken Atha, OSHA's regional administrator in San Francisco. "With construction projects expected to increase in Guam with the military buildup, OSHA wants employers to take safety and health seriously to ensure each of their workers is properly trained and working safely each day."

Paxia has been cited for 24 serious violations with proposed penalties of $31,500 and seven repeat violations with proposed penalties of $49,100. OSHA has inspected Paxia on 15 previous occasions, with violations found during 11 of those inspections.

The five subcontractors included in the inspection and cited by OSHA include the following Guam-based contractors:

Equatorial Manufactory Inc.: three serious violations with proposed penalties of $5,400.

Island Roofing Co: four serious violations and one other-than-serious violation with proposed penalties of $4,000.

JBL General Builders: 12 serious violations with proposed penalties of $14,400.

M Electric Corp.: seven serious violations with proposed penalties of $10,200.

UMS Equipment Rental: three serious violations with proposed penalties of $2,000.

A serious citation is issued when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known. A repeat violation is one where the employer previously was cited and upon re-inspection a substantially similar violation is found.

The companies have 15 business days from receipt of the citations to comply, request an informal conference with the OSHA area director, or contest the citations and penalties before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. ***(OSHA)***

KICKOFF FUNDRAISER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agnes McPhetres, Joe Ayuyu, and Maria Pangelinan with Angelo Villagomez at this kickoff fundraiser for the Mayor of Saipan campaign.

How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch
4 to 7 Months

- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- Head still flops back when body is pulled to a sitting position
- Does not like to cuddle
- Shows no affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people
- Persistent tearing, eye drainage, or sensitivity to light
- Does not respond to sounds around him or her
- Has difficulty getting objects to mouth
- Does not roll over in either direction (front to back or back to front) by 5 months
- Seems impossible to comfort at night after 5 months
- Cannot sit with help by 6 months
- Does not laugh or make squealing sounds by 6 months
- Does not actively reach for objects by 6 to 7 months
- Does not follow objects with both eyes at near (1 foot) and far (6 feet) ranges by 7 months
- Does not bear weight on legs by 7 months
- Does not try to attract attention through actions by 7 months
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

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2006 Kia Sorento LX 4x4
STOCK # 65643378
$14,995.00*

2005 Kia Rio
STOCK # 56395736
$7,995.00*

2004 Nissan Maxima SE
STOCK # 4C920948
$18,995.00*

2004 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 4N343991
$14,995.00*

2007 Kia Rio LX
STOCK # 6292373
$11,995.00*

SOLD

2006 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4
STOCK # 6KA88167
$23,995.00*

2004 Honda Element EX 4x4
STOCK # 4L003130
$14,995.00*

2007 Kia Rio LX
STOCK # 76210724
$11,995.00*

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Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Motheread/Fatheread program ends latest cycle

Participants in the newest cycle of the Motheread/Fatheread program marveled at Max's imagination and mischief in the storybook Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak and danced to the tune of Ming Lo Moves the Mountain by Arnold Lobel. They sympathized with Amelia's quest for acceptance in Amelia's Road by Linda Jacobs Altman and compared themselves to the comical yet lifelike characters in the story Wings: A Tale of Two Chickens, by James Marshall. They empathized with the little girl in the story A Chair for my Mother, by Vera B. Williams and agreed with Robert Munsch's Love You Forever that the lasting nature of parental love traverses generation.

CONTACT INFO

Viola DlGuerrero or Bryan Manabat
Tel: 235-7319, 287-9416, 789-6601
E-mail: cnmimotheread@gmail.com
read.learn.achieve@live.com.

For the closing occasion, Dolores Andrade, Bernadette Manuel, and Shin Duk Hwang role-played the characters of the story Wing: A Tale of Two Chickens before their children and few friends who have gathered at the Children of Our Homeland Cultural Center of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Aug. 28, 2009. The short presentation was well received by the audience.

Before presenting the certificates of completion, Viola Deleon Guerrero, CNMI Motheread/Fatheread program coordinator, gave short remarks, saying that parental commitment and involvement is important for a child's success in school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Motheread/Fatheread program participants and their children pose for a picture during the adult course closing activity at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Aug. 28, 2009.

The adult course session at this site was completed on Aug. 28, 2009, and was facilitated by Bryan Manabat, Motheread certified trainer. Refreshments were served after the occasion.

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread program is a nationally recognized and highly acclaimed literacy development program designed to help parents use selected storybooks and a variety of interactive activities to develop children's reading, critical thinking and problem solving skills. It is a literacy program sponsored by NMI Council for the Humanities in partnership with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Public School System, and other generous donors.

The School Year 2009-10 Motheread/Fatheread adult course schedules at the CNMI Head Start village centers are as follows:

- Sept. 28, 2009- Dandan and Kagman Head Start Centers
- Sept. 29, 2009- Garapan and Oleai Head Start Centers
- Sept. 30, 2009- Tanapag and Tinian Head Start Centers
- Oct. 1, 2009- Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, Sinapalo, and Songsong Head Start Centers

Schedules for interested private schools, agencies, and organizations could be arranged by contacting DlGuerrero or Manabat at 235-7319, 287-9416, 789-6601 or e-mailing them at cnmimotheread@gmail.com or read.learn.achieve@live.com. ***(PR)***

$18M grants available to farmers, ranchers

Approximately $18 million in competitive grant funds for Fiscal Year 2009 are now available to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities.

Ten percent is available to beginning farmers or ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, including those from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Paper applications must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2009 and sent to the Hawaii State Office:

Lori Nekoba,
Business Programs Specialist
USDA/Rural Development
154 Waianuenue Ave.,
Room 311, Hilo, HI 96720

Electronic applications must be submitted through the Grants.gov Web site at http://www.grants.gov, following the instructions there. E-mailed applications are not acceptable.

Grants may be made for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. The maximum grant amount for a planning grant is $100,000 and the maximum grant amount for a working capital grant is $300,000. Matching Funds are required and must be at least equal to the grant amount (1:1).

An application guide and other materials may be obtained at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm.

What is Value-Added?

The term 'value-added agricultural product' means any agricultural commodity or product that:

- has undergone a change in physical state (e.g., wheat into flour);
- was produced in a manner that enhances the value of the agricultural commodity or product, as demonstrated through a business plan that shows the enhanced value (e.g., organic tomatoes);
- is physically segregated in a manner that results in the enhancement of the value of the agricultural commodity or product (e.g., identity-preserved corn);
- is a source of farm- or ranch-based renewable energy, including E–85 fuel (e.g., electricity generated from an anaerobic lagoon); or
- and marketed as a locally-produced agricultural food product

Eligible Applicants

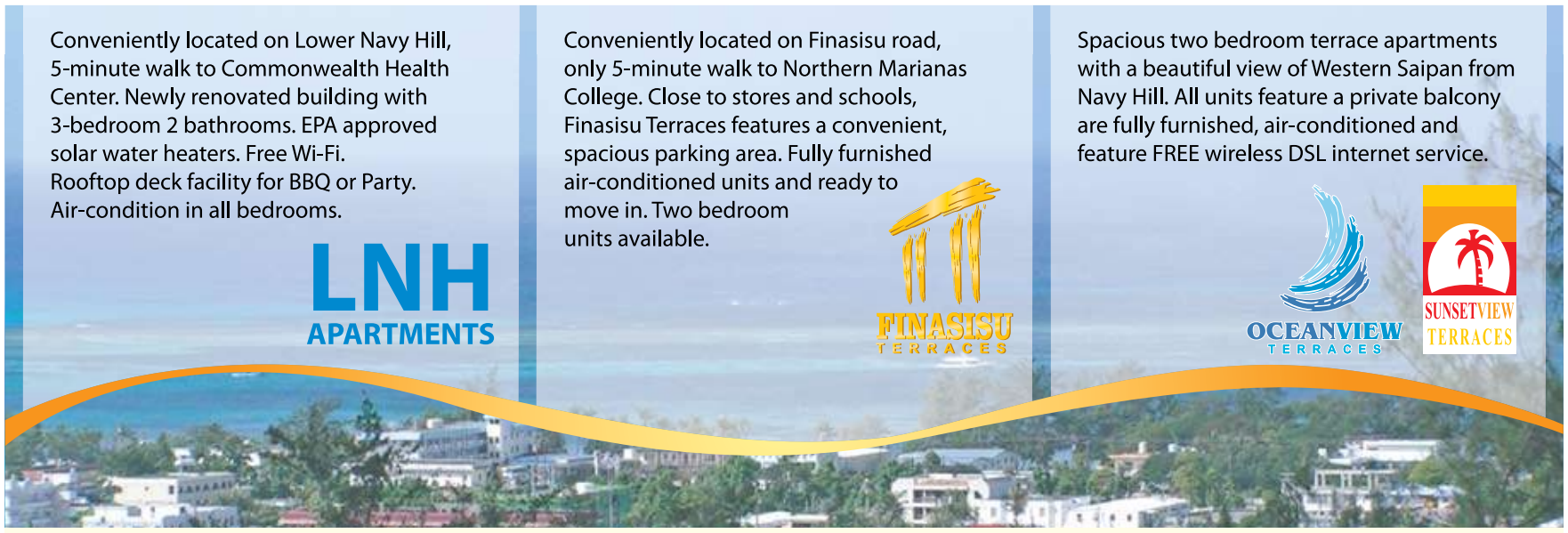
- Independent producers;
- Farmer or rancher cooperatives;
- Agricultural producer groups;
- Majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Eligible Purposes

Planning activities, such as conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing value-added agricultural products

Working capital expenses for processing and marketing value-added agricultural products, including inventory, salaries, and office supplies. ***(USDA)***

Newborn Hearing Screening
Did you know that… Every baby born in the CNMI receives a hearing screening before leaving the hospital?
Ask if your baby passed the test. Babies learn to talk from what they hear…if your baby needs follow up, schedule your appointment right away.
Follow-up testing is FREE! Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTH AND WELL BEING


Conveniently located on Lower Navy Hill, 5-minute walk to Commonwealth Health Center. Newly renovated building with 3-bedroom 2 bathrooms. EPA approved solar water heaters. Free Wi-Fi.
Rooftop deck facility for BBQ or Party.
Air-condition in all bedrooms.
LNH APARTMENTS
Conveniently located on Finasisu road, only 5-minute walk to Northern Marianas College. Close to stores and schools, Finasisu Terraces features a convenient, spacious parking area. Fully furnished air-conditioned units and ready to move in. Two bedroom units available.
FINASISU TERRACES
Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony are fully furnished, air-conditioned and feature FREE wireless DSL internet service.
OCEANVIEW TERRACES
SUNSETVIEW TERRACES
Realty Management Services
A TanHoldings Company
Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
All our properties are equipped with ff. amenities Laundry Area Free trash collection 24-hr water and power Night-time Security Guard On call maintenance staff Ample parking space Cable ready
Close to stores and schools For more information please call 285-1317 and look for Jeremy
MIHA applicants are welcome & special rates for NMC Faculty Staff, PSS and Military Personnel.
PMB 521 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950-8900 • Tel: 1(670) 235-6527/28 • Fax: (670) 235-6530 • sales@rmssaipan.com • www.saipan-properties.com

HANNAM MARKET | KAGMAN MARKET

288-9290/3639 256-4989

OPEN 24 HRS

Back to School Sale

SCHOOL SUPPLIES 20% OFF

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009 WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

Clothing Special

$1-$3

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER

Quarter Leg Chicken Limit 2 Case
SALE $15.99 22 lbs. SALE $22.99 33 lbs.

Whole Young Chicken
SALE $33.99/case Limit 1

Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut
SALE $15.99 20 lbs. Limit 2

Baby Ribs
SALE $15.99 10 lbs. Limit 2

Gusto Smoked
SALE $1.99 /lb.

Beef Back Ribs Adobo Cut
SALE $23.99/20 lbs. Limit 2

Lotus Brand Rice
SALE $24.95 50 lbs.

Royal Thai Lady Rice Limit 1
SALE $27.99 50 lbs.

Diamond G Rice Limit 1
20 lbs. SALE $13.99 50 lbs. SALE $34.95

Kanaloa Jasmin Rice
SALE $23.99 50 lbs.

Stewing Chicken
SALE $23.95 22 lbs.

Turkey Tail Limit 1
SALE $15.99 20 lbs.

Mackerel Pike and Horse Mackerel 22 lbs.
SALE $20.99/case

Milk Fish
SALE $1.19 / lb. $46.99/case

Tilapia 400-600 (size)
SALE 99¢/lb. SALE $37.99/case

Salad Oil 5 Galllon Limit 1
SALE $22.99

Hite, Max Beer, Cass & OB Beer Limit 2 Case
SALE $15.99/case Warm only

Rits Soda All Flavor
SALE $10.99/case Limit 1 Case

GROCERY ITEMS

Hormel Chili (No Beans) Limit 12
SALE $1.59

Hormel Chili with Beans
SALE $1.99

Hormel Corned Beef Hash Limit 6
SALE $1.99

Master A1 Tuna Limit 6
SALE 99¢

Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken and Meat Ball)
SALE $1.49/15 oz.

Black Label Luncheon Meat Limit 12
SALE $1.49

Ligo Sardines Limit 12
SALE 3 for $1.00

Beach Cliff Sardines
SALE 89¢

Armour Vienna Sausage
SALE 49¢/each

Del Monte Kernel Corn
SALE 69¢

Pasta Select
SALE 99¢

Hosen Fruit Cocktail
SALE $3.99

Argo Cornstarch
SALE 85¢

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors
SALE $1.29

Sunflower Mackerel
SALE $1.59/each

Dutch Colony Corned Beef
SALE $1.65/each

Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 btls)
SALE $3.99 1.6 ltr.

Kimchee Base 450 G.
SALE $4.95

Lemon Powder
SALE $4.95

Chicken Noodles
SALE 89¢/each

Tulips Luncheon Meat (12 oz)
SALE $1.65/each

Folger's Coffee 12 oz. Classic Roast
SALE $8.95

Coffee Mate 18 oz.
SALE $1.79

Vlassic Dill Pickles
$6.99 Whole $5.95 Whole

Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz.
SALE 99¢

Sugar
SALE $1.59/kg.

Dragon Brand Vegetable Oil
SALE 7.99 1 Gal.

Fresco Cooking Oil
SALE $7.99

Lipton Iced Tea 38 qrt.
SALE $6.95

Tang 22 quarts
SALE $5.99

Puriss Water 500 ml.
SALE $4.99/case

Sunkist Juice Bottle 320 ml.
SALE $6.99/case

NON-FOOD

Bounty Basic 8 Rolls
SALE $7.95

Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls
SALE $3.95

Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls
SALE $8.99

Purex Liquid Detergent 32 Loads
SALE $4.99

Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls
SALE $3.95

Safeguard Bar Soap
SALE 65¢/each

Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes
SALE $17.99

Gain Liquid Detergent
SALE $4.99

Suavitel 850 ml.
SALE $1.59

Adult Diapers
SALE $7.95

Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz.
SALE $5.99

Tide 3 kg.
SALE $3.95

Gain Powder 120 Loads
SALE $15.99

Glade Airfreshner 96 oz.
SALE $1.69

Creamsilk Conditioner 200 ml.
SALE $1.99

White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml.
2 for $2.50

Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct.
SALE $6.95

Butane Gas
SALE $21.99/case Limit 2

FROZEN FOOD

Dragon Hotdog Filipino Style
SALE $2.25

Ground Beef
SALE $15.99/10 lbs.

Beef Rib Finger
SALE $2.99/lb.

Ground Pork
SALE $16.99/10 lbs.

Chopped Ham
SALE $7.99/5 lbs.

Chopped Ham
SALE $15.99/10 lbs.

Bar S Hot Links
SALE $1.99/4 pcs.

Bar S Jumbo Franks
SALE $1.09/pkg.

Miller Sausage
SALE $14.99/pkg.

Family Bag Special

Pork Hocks	$8.95
Pork Belly	$10.95
Pork Adobo	$9.95
Pork Spareribs	$6.95
Pork Chops	$13.95
Beef Stew	$13.95
Beef Backribs	$8.95
Beef Shortribs	$15.95
Stewing Chicken	$5.95
Quarter Leg s	$5.95

Bar S Bacon
SALE $2.49/pkg.

Swift Hotdog
SALE $3.99 14 oz. SALE $5.99 24 oz.

Hoffy Portuguese Sausage
SALE $1.99/pkg.

Hoffy Sausage
SALE $6.99/pkg.

Beef Patties
SALE $6.99/3 lbs.

Dragon White Shrimp 26/30
SALE $3.99/box

San Pedro's Calamari
SALE $4.99

Calamari Seawave
SALE $1.99/1 lb.

Boneless Marinated Milkfish
SALE $4.59

Baby Milkfish Marinated
SALE $3.59

Green Mussels
SALE $4.99/5 lbs.

Vega Shrimp
SALE $4.99/lb.

PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo)
SALE 79¢/lb.

Orange
SALE 89¢/lb.

Gala/Fiji Apple
SALE $3.99/pkg.

Banana
SALE 99¢/lb.

Red Onion
SALE 99¢/lb.

Onion
SALE 59¢/lb.

Garlic
SALE 89¢/lb.

U.S. Eggs Extra Large
SALE $1.99/doz.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE

Business

Fed survey shows US recession may be over

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recession is ending and the economy is finally growing again.

That's the message implicit in the Federal Reserve's latest survey of businesses around the country, which found economic activity stabilizing or improving in most regions.

Economists warn the expansion is fragile and will have staying power only if consumers start spending more money. Rising unemployment that keeps Americans cautions could make for a plodding recovery in the months ahead.

All but one of the Fed's 12 regions indicated economic activity either was "stable," showed "signs of stabilization" or had "firmed," according to the Fed's survey. The one exception was the St. Louis region, which reported the economic decline is "moderating."

Businesses in most Fed regions said they were "cautiously positive" about the economic road ahead. The survey, known as the Beige Book, does not include precise figures.

Analysts predict the economy is growing in the current quarter, which ends Sept. 30, at an annual rate of 3 percent to 4 percent. That's mostly because businesses, which had slashed investments during the recession, are spending more.

Auto sales have been lifted by the government's recently ended Cash for Clunkers program. Manufacturing and the battered housing market, which led the country into recession when it collapsed, have also shown signs of improvement.

The problem for the economy is that the expected growth this quarter comes mainly from the auto companies and other manufacturers, which are refilling their depleted stockpiles.

Those inventories had dwindled as factories and retailers sought to bring what they had more in line with reduced sales. Any robust growth in the economy might be short-lived if shoppers don't step up their spending.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Goldman CEO says pay backlash is 'appropriate'

WASHINGTON (AP)—After years spent raking in millions as a top executive of Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Lloyd Blankfein said Wednesday that outsized banker pay encouraged excess and worked "against the public interest." The furor over bankers' pay after last year's financial crisis often was "understandable and appropriate," Blankfein told the Handelsblatt Banking Conference, according to remarks prepared for delivery in Frankfurt, Germany. "There is little justification for the payment of outsized discretionary compensation when a financial institution lost money for the year," the Goldman CEO said. He said bonuses are important to attracting and retaining top talent, but "misapplied, they can also encourage excess." Experts on executive compensation were skeptical that Blankfein's remarks would lead to action, and critics said he may be trying to avoid tougher government rules on pay.

GM considers 4 options for Germany-based Opel unit

DETROIT (AP)—The new General Motors Co. board apparently has decided what to do with its troubled German-based Opel unit, but nothing will be made public until German government officials and Opel's board are notified early Thursday, a person familiar with the situation said. The 13-member GM board on Wednesday was weighing four options for Opel, including keeping the operation or letting it slide into bankruptcy protection, said the person, who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the decision. Board members also were discussing if GM should accept bids from a consortium of Magna International Inc. and Russia's Sberbank or a competing offer from RHJ International, a Brussels-based investment house.

Foreclosure filings dip from July to August

MIAMI (AP)—The number of U.S. households threatened with losing their homes held steady last month, a sign that lenders' efforts to help distressed borrowers may be having a gradual impact. But one month does not make a trend. More than 358,000 foreclosure-related filings were recorded in August, meaning one in 357 U.S. homes received a filing, RealtyTrac Inc. reported Thursday. That number, up 18 percent from a year ago, includes default notices, scheduled auctions and bank repossessions.

OPEC leaves crude output targets unchanged

VIENNA (AP)—OPEC on Thursday decided to leave its production quotas unchanged, opting to take a cautious approach in a market awash in crude and a global economy still in the nascent stages of recovery.

The 12-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said "market fundamentals have remained weak," even though oil prices are roughly double their levels when the group announced in December a record 4.2 million barrel per day cut from September 2008 levels.

The upswing in prices was a blessing for the bloc—supplier of roughly 35 percent of the world's crude—but OPEC ministers noted volatility remained in the market and a delicate touch was needed to ensure that the uptick does not derail global economic recovery efforts.

The meeting's closing communique said "whilst there are signs that economic recovery is under way, there remains great concern about the magnitude and pace of this recovery," especially in the West. The group noted uncomfortably high crude and refined product levels, which reflect that refiners are not eager to churn out additional product.

The statement said that "since the market remains oversupplied and given the downside risks associated with the extremely fragile recovery, (OPEC) once again agreed to leave current production levels unchanged for the time being."

Congress probing SEC's Madoff failure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress is reopening its inquiry into the Securities and Exchange Commission's failure to detect the multibillion-dollar fraud conducted for more than a decade by Bernard Madoff, this time seeking answers from the agency watchdog and potential lessons for lawmakers in crafting new financial rules.

The Senate Banking Committee is scheduled to hear testimony Thursday from David Kotz, the SEC inspector general, who revealed in a detailed report last week how the agency bungled five investigations of Madoff's business between June 1992 and last December, when the disgraced financier confessed.

During that time span, the SEC received six "substantive complaints that raised significant red flags" regarding Madoff's operations, according to Kotz's report. But "a thorough and competent investigation or examination was never performed."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-REV-154

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PRINTING OF THE 2009 FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR W-2CM AND OS-3710 FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **PLEASE CONTACT MS. FRANCES ADA OR MS. DELCINA TUDELA AT (670) 664-1000/98 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINACE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DEQ-145

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 1, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 AT 9:30 A.M.** AT THE DEQ MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR GUALO RAI CENTER, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
September 4, 2009

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain **Writ of Execution on Personal Property** by the **CNMI Superior Court in Civil Action No. 04-0588C**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), **together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety**, shall auction off to the highest bidder **assets of Wespac Freight including office furniture, equipments and various other items.**

An inventory listing may be obtained at CDA Office, Gualo Rai or on our website at www.cda.gov.mp, photos are available online.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Wespac Freight Parking Lot, Lower Base, Saipan on Friday, September 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.;**
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check, or credit card (Visa & Mastercard); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from site. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2009

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units
at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and
CPA Saipan Seaport Building
Project No. RFP-006-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration companies for service and preventive maintenance of the air-conditioning units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the CPA Saipan Seaport Building, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone number (670) 237-6500. A pre-proposal meeting and on-site visit is mandatory and to be conducted on Friday, August 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting and on-site inspection of the units will be allowed to submit proposals.

The term of the Service and Preventive Maintenance Services contract shall be for two (2) years. Performance and payment bonds will be required for this project and the cost of acquiring the bonds should be included in the proposed price.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Service and Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport/CPA Saipan Seaport Building, Project No. RFP-006-09." Associated costs for the airport and seaport buildings should be submitted together but as separate proposals. Determination of the winning proposal will be based on the overall price for both airport and seaport.

All proposals shall be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m.** local time, **Friday, September 11, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CPA Procurement Regulations.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. August 28, 2009
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FUEL HAULING SERVICES
Saipan Harbor & CPA ARFF
CPA-RFP-007-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for fuel hauling services to the Port of Saipan and the ARFF facility at the Saipan International Airport. Due to physical constraints and volume required, a small type delivery truck will be suitable.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Fuel Hauling Services to the Port of Saipan and the ARFF Facility at the Saipan International Airport".*** The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 25, 2009,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions will be accepted until September 22, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 18, 2009 at the Saipan International Airport Conference Room (2nd floor of the Departure terminal). Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. September 7, 2009
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Nation

Obama: Time for 'bickering' is over on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shaking off a summer of setbacks, President Barack Obama summoned Congress to enact sweeping health care legislation Wednesday night, declaring the "time for bickering is over" and the moment has arrived to protect millions who have unreliable insurance or no coverage at all.

Obama said the changes he wants would cost about $900 billion over decade, "less than we have spent on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and less than the tax cuts for the wealthiest few Americans" passed during the Bush administration.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's Republican adversaries remain ready to rumble in the aftermath of his impassioned push to reform America's health care system.

There were the requisite calls for bipartisanship - public opinion polls show that voters by overwhelming margins want Republicans and Democrats to work in tandem.

AP

In this three photo combo, President Barack Obama speaks to a joint session of Congress on healthcare at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

"House Republicans ... are ready, willing, and able to work with the Democrat majority to solve our health care challenges in a bipartisan manner," Rep. Mike Pence said in a news release. But above the remark blared the headline: "One More Speech about the Same Bad Plan."

■ ■ ■

In a televised speech to a joint session of Congress, Obama spoke in favor of a provision for the federal government to sell insurance in competition with private industry. But in a remark certain to displease liberals, he did not insist on it, and said he was open to other alternatives that create choices for consumers.

Obama said he remains ready to listen to all ideas but added in a clear reference to Republicans, "I will not waste time with those who have made the calculation that it's better politics to kill this plan than to improve it."

In an unusual outburst from the Republican side of the House chamber, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., shouted out "You lie" when the president said illegal immigrants would not benefit from his proposals.

ACROSS THE NATION

Walruses congregate on Alaska shore as ice melts

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Thousands of walruses are congregating on Alaska's northwest coast, a sign that their Arctic sea ice environment has been altered by climate change. Chad Jay, a U.S. Geological Survey walrus researcher, said Wednesday that about 3,500 walruses were near Icy Cape on the Chukchi Sea, some 140 miles southwest of Barrow. Animals the agency tagged with satellite transmitters also were detected on shore at Cape Lisburne about 150 miles farther down the coast. Walruses for years came ashore intermittently during their fall southward migration but not so early and not in such numbers.

Crews battling Calif. wildfire race to clear brush

IRWINDALE, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters are racing against the weather to clear brush before heat descends on Southern California, stoking the giant 15-day-old wildfire burning in the Angeles National Forest. With 19 miles of fireline left to cut in steep and forbidding wilderness, hot and dry conditions on Wednesday pushed plans to set backfires into the night as crews waited for the weather to cooperate. Containment notched upward to 62 percent and there was no increase in size, said Darryl Jacobs, a spokesman at the fire command post.

NY Times: Reporter freed as situation worsened

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York Times reporter taken hostage in Afghanistan and rescued by British commandos Wednesday told his editors that the situation in the Taliban hide-out where he was held had been growing more ominous. Stephen Farrell and his translator were taken hostage Saturday in the northern province of Kunduz when they went to cover a German-ordered airstrike of two hijacked fuel tankers. The bombing, carried out by U.S. jets, caused a number of civilian casualties. British commandos carried out a raid to free him early Wednesday; the translator and a British commando were killed.

Suspect in slayings well-known in his neighborhood

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Walter Ellis was anything but unknown in his north side neighborhood in Milwaukee—a mix of condemned and run-down houses with some nicer, newer homes.

Even as the bodies of suspected prostitutes began turning up in garbage bins and abandoned buildings near his home, the stocky Ellis had regular—sometimes violent, often friendly—interaction with neighbors and family, and more than a dozen run-ins with police.

Officers even stopped him while investigating several of the nine slayings that went unsolved.

Now those who know the 49-year-old are trying to come to grips with the fact that the man everyone knew as "Wadell" stands charged in two of the deaths and could face more charges Thursday.

"Who wants to say ... 'I grew up with a serial killer,' not on God's green earth. Who would ever fathom such a thought," said ViAnna Jordan, 51, who grew up a block from Ellis.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CHC-138

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE RENAL SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MS. TINA SNODGRASS, ACTING MANAGER, SOCIAL SERVICE** BY FAX TO (670) 234-8930 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **PEDRO T. UNTALAN**
ACTING SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CHC-144

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"FUEL AND LUBRICANT SERVICES FOR GENERATORS, BOILERS AND MACHINERIES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS ITB IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS AND SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO RAY CHONG, MAINTENANCE BRANCH MANAGER AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 236-8350

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on September 16, 2009 (Wednesday) from 10:30am – 2:30pm at Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes of August 4, 2009

II. Public Comments

III. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance
4. Council Standing Committees
   a. Personnel
   b. Education
   c. Executive
   d. Finance
   e. Public Relations

IV. Old Business

V. New Business
1. Approval of 2009-2010 Written Service Area Plans
2. Approval of Lead Screening Policy & Procedure
3. Approval of Transportation Waiver Request

VI. Executive Session

VII. Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

/s/ Mr. Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For the Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND

FINANCIAL AUDITS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-061

OPENING DATE: August 28, 2009 CLOSING DATE: September 28, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed proposals to perform a financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), and Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLITF) for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2009 and 2010. To receive the RFP package, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

David S. Demapan, Comptroller
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax No. 670-664-8080
E-mail: comptroller@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

/s/ Mark A. Aguon
Administrator

Asia

Taiwan's Chen awaits verdict in corruption trial

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwan court will decide Friday if former President Chen Shui-bian is guilty of corruption, in a trial widely seen as a key test of the island's young democracy.

Chen

Chen, 58, is accused of embezzling $3.15 million during his 2000-2008 presidency from a special presidential fund, receiving bribes worth at least $9 million in connection with a government land deal, laundering some of the money through Swiss bank accounts, and forging documents.

If convicted, he could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Chen has pleaded not guilty and claims he is being persecuted for his anti-China views by successor Ma Ying-jeou, a strong advocate of improved ties with Beijing.

Chen's legal travails have galvanized this island of 23 million people, which held its first direct presidential election in 1996, less than a decade after it began dismantling four-decades of strict, one-party rule.

Most Taiwanese are convinced Chen is guilty of at least some of the charges against him, though some of his supporters believe his political views have played a role in his prosecution and that he has been unfairly confined to jail during his trial.

Critics point to a decision to change the three-judge Taipei District Court panel trying Chen after it originally freed him on his own recognizance following his indictment last December. The new judges accepted the prosecutors' argument that he constituted a flight risk, and that if freed, he could collude with alleged co-conspirators.

Political scientist Hsu Yung-ming of Taipei's Soochow University said there were elements of retribution in Chen's treatment.

Body of female ferry victim found in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Coast guard rescuers retrieved a woman's body floating in a life jacket Wednesday, and said she was among 10 people killed after a ferry sank in the southern Philippines.

Although all 968 travelers and crew on the manifest were now accounted for, two coast guard ships will remain near where the ferry went down Sunday off Zamboanga del Norte province in case unlisted passengers were aboard, coast guard chief Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo said.

"We want to be very sure that nobody will be left behind," Tamayo said.

A coast guard containment vessel will also stand by to respond to any possible fuel spill from the ferry, which was reportedly carrying 250 tons of petrol and oil, he said.

Maritime authorities said other passenger ferries operated by Aboitiz Transport System, which owned the sunken vessel, will be confined to port so their seaworthiness can be checked.

Australia, meanwhile, warned its citizens against traveling on inter-island ferries in the Philippines saying sea travel in the Philippines was "hazardous," an advisory posted on a government Web site said Wednesday.

Tamayo said the advisory was unfair, adding sea travel in the country remains safe.

The Philippines has suffered numerous maritime disasters.

Abu Sayyaf militants bombed another Superferry in Manila Bay in 2004, setting off an inferno that killed 116 people. Last year, a ferry rapidly overturned after sailing toward a powerful typhoon in the central Philippines, killing more than 800 people on board.

Japanese town in 'The Cove' setting dolphins free

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese town chronicled in the award-winning film "The Cove" for its dolphin hunt that turns coastal waters red with blood will free much of the season's first catch, following an international outcry over the annual slaughter.

The western Japanese town of Taiji will sell a handful of the animals to aquariums as it does every year, but the remainder of the 100 bottlenose dolphins that were caught early Wednesday are to be released. In the past, they were killed and sold for meat.

An official at the Taiji fisheries association, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the town abhors the publicity its dolphin-killing has drawn, said Thursday that the decision was made partly in response to the public outcry created by "The Cove."

He said some of the dolphins will be hand-picked for aquariums and the rest will be set free, although a time for that has not been set. In Wednesday's hunt, the fishermen also caught 50 pilot whales, which were slain and sold as meat, he said.

He said it was unclear whether the town would stop killing dolphins. He said residents wanted to avoid trouble, but did not want to cave in to activists and give up what they see as a tradition.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar says Chinese tip-off led to border clash

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar troops were acting on a tip-off from China when they seized an illegal arms factory last month, triggering several days of clashes with an ethnic militia that sent more than 30,000 refugees fleeing across the border into China, an official said. Myanmar's ruling military junta secured the northeastern region of Kokang late last month and thousands of refugees have since returned to their homes. On Tuesday, it held a government-organized tour of the region for diplomats and reporters. Myanmar Deputy Home Affairs Minister Brig. Phone Swe told participants that government troops seized the weapons factory near the Chinese border on Aug. 8 after being informed about it during a ministerial meeting with China on combatting transnational crime.

Australia probes journalist killings in East Timor

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia has launched a war crimes investigation into the 1975 killing of five Australian-based journalists during an attack by Indonesian forces in East Timor. The probe announced Wednesday comes two years after an Australian coroner investigating the deaths found they were deliberate and probably ordered by senior Indonesian officers. The coroner's findings contradicted the Indonesian and Australian governments' official version of events: that the journalists were killed accidentally in a crossfire between Indonesian troops and East Timorese defenders.

China mine death tolls hits 56; 36 trapped

BEIJING (AP)—More than 20 officials and mine managers have been fired, suspended or arrested after accidents in two mines in a central Chinese province left 56 dead and another 36 missing with little hope of survival. Eight officials at a gold mine that caught fire and 13 with an illegal coal mine that suffered an explosion earlier this week are being held responsible for the disasters, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Wednesday. Electrical wires that were severed during a cave-in sparked a fire at the gold mine in Henan province Tuesday. Six gold miners and seven rescuers were trapped underground by the blaze and died, Xinhua said. Six miners escaped the blaze, it said.

World

Fanatic hijacked Mexican plane after 'revelation'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Bolivian religious fanatic briefly hijacked a jetliner from the beach resort of Cancun as it landed in Mexico City on Wednesday, police said. All passengers and the crew were released unharmed.

AP
Jose Flores, 44, of Bolivia is shown to the press after his arrest at the police hanger in Mexico City's airport Wednesday Sept. 9, 2009. Flores admitted he briefly hijacked a jetliner from the beach resort of Cancun as it landed in Mexico City.

The Bible-carrying hijacker used a juice can he said was a bomb to hold the 103 passengers and crew on the tarmac for more than an hour. Masked police stormed the aircraft with their guns drawn and escorted several handcuffed men away without firing a shot. Police later said there was only one hijacker.

Jose Flores, 44, told investigators he hijacked Aeromexico Flight 576 after a divine revelation, according to Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna. Flores said Wednesday's date—9-9-09—is the satanic number 666 turned upside down.

Flores, speaking to reporters after he was detained, said he took control of the aircraft with "a juice can with some little lights I attached."

"Christ is coming soon," he added, smiling.

US signing anti-piracy agreement at UN for Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and four other nations signed onto an international plan to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia, committing Wednesday to playing a leadership role in protecting one of the world's busiest shipping routes.

The so-called "New York Declaration" signed by U.S. Deputy Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo and her counterparts from Britain, Cyprus, Japan and Singapore is an attempt to pool resources and agree on the best ways of deterring the Somali pirates who prey on vessels passing between Europe and Asia.

"We realize that the fight against piracy in the Horn of Africa region cannot be solved entirely at sea," DiCarlo said. Other needed measures, she said, involve nations adopting legal mechanisms to prosecute suspected pirates and Somalia improving its capacity to police its own territory.

Though it is a nonbinding political document, proponents say it will commit ship registry nations to adopt "best management practices" for ship security such as increased lookouts, raised ladders and emergency fire pumps readied to repel boarders.

It was first proposed in May by Panama, the Bahamas, Liberia and the Marshall Islands, four of the world's biggest ship registries. Those nations signed the declaration previously.

Photos released of terrorist mastermind at Gitmo

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The first photographs of the self-proclaimed 9/11 mastermind at Guantanamo Bay have cropped up on the Internet, and experts say the images of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed are being used by terrorist groups to inspire attacks against the United States.

The photographs, taken in July by the Red Cross at the detention center on a U.S. naval base in Cuba, show Mohammed sitting serenely wearing a white robe, a red-patterned headdress and a long salt-and-pepper beard.

They are the first known images of Mohammed since a widely distributed shot taken upon his capture in Pakistan in March 2003 showing him in a stretched white T-shirt, with disheveled hair and a mustache. Since then, only courtroom sketches from his war-crimes trial have been available.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which photographs Guantanamo prisoners as part of its mission to monitor their treatment, confirmed on Wednesday that it took the images in July and sent them to his family. Spokesman Bernard Barrett did not identify the location of the family or specify their relationship.

Barrett said the photos were given only to the family and were not intended for public release, but the organization does not impose conditions on detainee families.

WORLD BRIEFS

Flash floods slam Istanbul, kill at least 20

ISTANBUL (AP)—The heaviest rainfall in at least eight decades sent flash floods barreling across a major highway and into busy business districts in Turkey's largest city on Wednesday, trapping factory workers and truck drivers in their vehicles and drowning at least 20 people. Waters six feet (2 meters) high in some places flooded hundreds of homes and offices and cut off the TEM highway, which connects central Istanbul to the sprawling city's main airport and goes on to Greece and Bulgaria. Rescue crews in helicopters pulled people off rooftops in Ikitelli, a district of media offices and corporate headquarters about 13 miles (20 kilometers) from the Bosporus strait, which divides the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The surging water flipped trucks, cars and buses, crushing many into piles of debris.

Lockerbie bomber weak, pale in public appearance

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The ailing Lockerbie bomber looked weak and pale, sitting in a wheelchair, as he was visited by a group of African parliamentarians Wednesday in a rare appearance in the hospital where he is being treated for prostate cancer. Abdel Baset al-Megrahi appeared for only five minutes and did not speak during the visit in the Tripoli Medical Center. Dressed in hospital scrubs, he wore a surgical mask over his mouth and nose and a traditional embroidered cap. Al-Megrahi was freed from a Scottish prison last month on compassionate grounds because doctors said he was dying of his cancer. The release outraged the United States and many relatives of the 270 people killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland—and their anger was further fanned by the warm welcome al-Megrahi received when he arrived home in Libya.

Off The Wall

Man allegedly flings jellyfish at teens at beach

MADEIRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A 41-year-old man was arrested on Monday at Madeira Beach after witnesses said he repeatedly pretended to drown, then allegedly began tossing jellyfish at nearby teenagers.

According to a sheriff's office report, Keith Edward Marriott caused "concern for his safety" when he repeatedly submerged himself and floated back to the top of the water. He was also "loud and disruptive."

He then started throwing the sea creatures.

Marriott was arrested and charged with disorderly intoxication and carrying a concealed weapon. According to the St. Petersburg Times, Marriott was carrying a pocketknife in his shorts.

Jail records indicate that Marriott was being held on $250 bond. A message left after-hours at the public defender's office was not immediately returned late Tuesday night.

This Sept. 7, 2009 photo provided by Pinellas County Sheriff's Office shows Keith Edward Marriott, Madeira Beach, Fla. AP

UPS truck is Denver's champion parking violator

DENVER (AP)—A single UPS delivery truck is the champion of Denver parking violations, racking up 196 tickets worth nearly $5,700 last year. The Denver Post reported the dubious achievement Wednesday. UPS spokesman Mark Dickens says parking tickets are a cost of doing business in some cities.

The newspaper says parking tickets are on the upswing in Denver and are on pace to hit 670,000.

That would be 14 percent higher than last year and the most since Mayor John Hickenlooper took office in 2003 after making parking tickets a campaign issue.

City officials say they're not trying to drive up revenue. They say the increase is caused by more residential parking zones, more parking agents, replacement of faded no-parking signs and population growth.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Del. trooper nabs man wearing colleague's watch

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Delaware State Police said a thief has been caught red-handed—and that hand happened to be wearing a watch stolen from a trooper nearly two years ago. Police said a trooper noticed a Chevrolet Blazer parked close to his own car outside a Wilmington restaurant Sunday. The Blazer drove away, and the trooper found his car had been burglarized and his wife's wallet stolen. The trooper set out to look for the Blazer. Police said he found a 54-year-old man rummaging through the glove box of an SUV. Police said the man got back into the Blazer and tried to drive away before being detained. According to police, the man was wearing a Delaware State Police 20-year anniversary watch that had been stolen from another trooper's vehicle in December 2007.

Deputy pleads guilty in jailhouse food tampering

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A former Ohio deputy accused of feeding an inmate a bologna sandwich that been rubbed against another inmate's genitals has pleaded guilty to two health code violations. In a Columbus courtroom on Wednesday, 38-year-old Joseph Cantwell also apologized for the shame and embarrassment that he said he had caused. A judge fined him $500 plus court costs, and Cantwell also received a 90-day suspended jail sentence and five years' probation. Cantwell's attorney called the February incident at the Franklin County Jail a "prank." It led Sheriff Jim Karnes to fire Cantwell and his partner in May. The other deputy was not charged with a crime. The inmates who were involved have filed lawsuits against the county.

'Winnie the Pooh' pulls bank job in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—The man who robbed a suburban Chicago bank at gunpoint last Friday looks like a hard-boiled, tough guy straight out of pulp fiction. Except for his sweatshirt, which featured a picture of Winnie the Pooh, the lovable Bear who's a classic of children's fiction. FBI agents on Wednesday dubbed him the Winnie the Pooh Bandit and released surveillance photos from the Park Ridge bank in hopes the public might help to identify him. They described his as a white male, 35 to 40 years old, 6-feet, 225 pounds, and medium build. FBI agents like to give bank robbers monickers—such as the Scarecrow Bandit who looked like a character from the "Wizard of Oz" and the Groucho Bandit who wore a fake mustache—in hopes of generating public interest and assistance.

Wisconsin dad, son excel at cricket-spitting

MARSHFIELD, Wis. (AP)—When it comes to spitting a cricket for distance, the central Wisconsin talent seems concentrated in one Marshfield family. Brian Johnsrud spat a thawed cricket 22 feet, 8 inches at the Central Wisconsin State Fair on Saturday. Minutes later, his son Jared shot his cricket 10 feet, 5 inches to win the 9-to-11 age division. Brian Johnsrud said the key is to pick the biggest cricket and put it upside down on your tongue. He also said you have to take the deep breath before putting the cricket in your mouth, so you don't swallow the critter. Daniel Word, 7, won the competition among 5- to 8-year-olds. After spitting his cricket 9 feet, 11 inches, he said it wasn't easy. The event drew enough interest that organizers say they'll make it an annual affair.

Woman nabbed twice for DUI on same night in 2 cars

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Police arrested a woman twice in one night in two different cars for driving drunk. Police spokeswoman Katie Flood said the woman was pulled over at 1:13 a.m. Wednesday after she allegedly made an illegal turn and was spotted swerving down a south Lincoln street. The officer who stopped her said her blood-alcohol level was .19. That's more than twice the legal limit. The woman was cited on suspicion of driving under the influence and negligent driving and taken to a detoxification center. Flood said the same officer stopped the woman again about two hours later. This time she was driving her boyfriend's car. She was arrested for driving under the influence and negligent driving and taken to jail. Her blood-alcohol level then tested at .154.

Yellow Labrador mix survives being shot 4 times

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A 2-year-old yellow Labrador mix is recovering at a Kansas City shelter after being shot four times. And workers at Wayside Waifs have dubbed him Bullet. Waifs spokeswoman Ashlee Parker said Bullet was found several weeks ago in Caldwell County, shot once in the head, once in each front shoulder and once in the neck. The Kansas City Star reported that the Cameron-based rescue group Safe Haven took in the dog, paid for his treatments and nursed him mostly back to health. Parker said Bullet still has some pain in one of his shoulders and one leg. Bullet arrived at Wayside Waifs Tuesday. He got X-rays and was neutered and currently is not up for adoption. Officials don't know who shot the dog or why.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Tinian Harbor Improvements
CPA-TS-001-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals to repair certain features to the dock at the Tinian Harbor. A detailed scope of work will be available at the office of the Executive Office on Thursday, September 3, 2009.

The proposals shall include the following:
- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Improvements at the Tinian Harbor, CPA-TS-001-09"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 25, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions will be accepted until September 21, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 2, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Replacement of Lighting Fixtures
Saipan Commercial Port
Project No. CPA-SS-003-09a

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the complete replacement of 117 light fixtures on thirteen (13) light poles, located along the ocean front of the dock at Saipan Seaport.

A detailed scope of work is available at the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Replacement of Lighting Fixtures at the Saipan Commercial Port, Project Number CPA-SS-003-09a"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at *3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2009* at the Port of Saipan Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 2, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for the Procurement and Installation of a Non-Directional (Rotating) Beacon
at the Tinian International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new non-directional (rotating) beacon at the Tinian International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and 1-year preventive maintenance services. Beacon specifications are as follows with all new components:

- No less than sixty feet (60') high;
- Must withstand at least 190 MPH winds;
- Have a 1.5 gust factor;
- Include a climbing device and basket tower;
- Include a beacon light with 120 VAC, lens, pulse start, obstruction lights, lightning rod; and
- Installation of electrical including new wiring, splicing and breaker.

All requirements under FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-12E, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment.

Furthermore, included in the work is the removal and complete disposal of the existing tower. Disposal site is the responsibility of the contractors but it must be located outside CPA's property.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A walk-through inspection will be conducted on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport on the date and time mentioned above.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009**.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

Science & Technology

Apple CEO Jobs on stage, discusses transplant

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs returned Wednesday to the showman role that has helped define his company leadership, taking the stage for the first time since his medical leave to announce such new products as an iPod Nano that records video.

Jobs, who had a liver transplant this spring from a young adult who died in a car accident, got a vigorous standing ovation from many in the audience.

Looking thin and speaking quietly and with a scratchy voice, the 54-year-old CEO urged everyone to become organ donors.

"I wouldn't be here without such generosity," Jobs said.

Jobs had not appeared at such a product launch event since last October. He bowed out of his usual keynote at the year's largest Mac trade show in January and went on leave shortly thereafter for nearly six months.

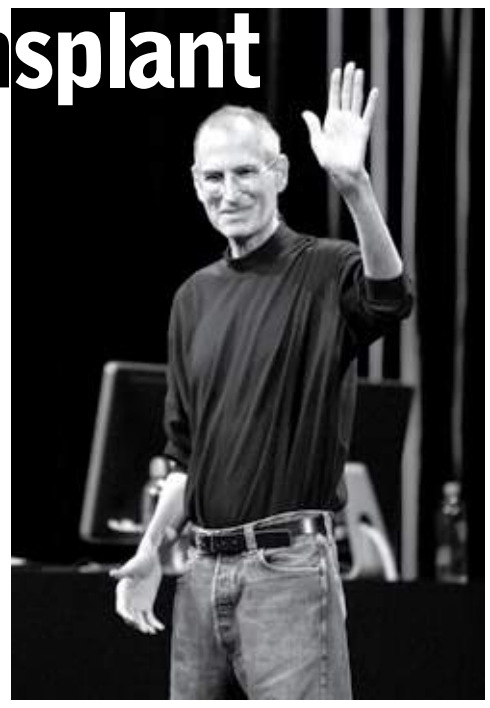
At an event for journalists, bloggers and software partners, Jobs announced updates to Apple's iTunes and iPhone software and unveiled a new iPod Nano with a built-in video camera.

Phil Schiller, Apple's top marketing executive, also took the stage to announce price cuts and storage boosts to existing iPod Touch models.

Few chief executives are considered as critical to their companies' success as Jobs has been to Apple's since 1997, when he returned to the company after a 12-year hiatus, and Apple's stock has soared and plunged on news and rumors of his health.

Shares in Apple reached a 52-week high of $174.47 in Wednesday trading, then fell to close at $171.14, or $1.79 below Tuesday's closing.

Jobs, whose medical problems began more than five years ago and included treatment for a rare form of pancreatic cancer, seemed happy to be back in the spotlight, saying, "I'm vertical, I'm back at Apple and loving every day of it."



Apple CEO Steve Jobs waves at the end of an Apple event in San Francisco, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009. AP

Highlights of Apple announcements

NANO WITH VIDEO CAMERA
The Nano, the smallest iPod that has a screen, now comes with a built-in video camera, a microphone, a pedometer, a 2.2-inch display and an FM radio tuner. It costs $149 for an eight-gigabyte version or $179 for a 16 GB model.

PRICE CUTS, STORAGE EXPANSION
The 8 GB model of the iPod Touch—basically an iPhone without the phone capabilities—now costs $199, or $30 less. Apple kept prices constant for its larger models, but doubled the storage space; a 32 GB version now goes for $299 and a 64 GB model for $399.

COLORFUL SHUFFLES
The tiny $79, 4 GB Shuffle now comes in silver, black, pink, blue and green. A smaller, less expensive version was added—$59 for a 2 GB model, also in multiple colors.

BEEFIER CLASSIC
The traditional iPod model now has a 160 GB hard drive for the existing $249 price—a 40 GB boost in storage.

ITUNES UPGRADE
ITunes 9 cleans up the software design, gives people more control over what gets loaded on to iPods and iPhones and introduces a way to organize applications for the iPhone and iPod Touch. It also lets five computers on the same home network share—by streaming or copying—music, video and other content, a departure from the strict copy protection Apple insisted on in the past.

DIGITAL ALBUMS
ITunes will now sell some albums packaged with digital photography, cover art, liner notes and other media reminiscent of the days of vinyl. ITunes LP can include interviews and other video, all of which can be viewed through iTunes. It's a way for recording companies to boost album sales as online stores make it easier to buy songs individually.

TECH BYTES

Palm to release cheaper sibling of Pre smart phone
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Palm Inc., which revitalized its product line with the Pre smart phone launch in June, is hoping to keep momentum going with the release of a lighter, cheaper handset called the Pixi. The company said Wednesday that the Pixi will be available during the holiday season through Sprint Nextel Corp., currently the Pre's exclusive wireless carrier. Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Palm would not divulge the Pixi's price tag, but confirmed it will be less than that of its big brother.

Google launches user-led Q&A service in Arabic
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Google Inc. launched an online tool Tuesday that allows Arab users to answer each other's questions, a move designed to boost the amount of Web content available in Arabic. The new service comes two weeks after Yahoo Inc. bought one of the Arab world's largest online portals. Like Google, Yahoo wants to better serve the rapidly expanding population of young and tech-savvy people in the Middle East. Google decided to launch its tool, called Google Ejabat after the Arabic word for "answers," after discovering many of its Arabic users' searches failed to turn up relevant results.

Would-be Pirate Bay buyer ousted from stock market
STOCKHOLM (AP)—The would-be buyer of Swedish file-sharing Web site The Pirate Bay has been kicked out of the smallcap stock exchange Aktietorget for misleading the market, the Swedish trading platform said Wednesday. Aktietorget said Global Gaming Factory X AB breached its transparency principles by saying the financing of The Pirate Bay acquisition was secured, that the company had received two informal takeover offers and that it was in final negotiations with copyright owners about content for the site. In fact, the money hadn't yet been raised, the takeover offers couldn't be verified and negotiations with the music industry were at an early stage, the market place said.

AT&T to double wireless data speeds in 6 cities
Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and Charlotte, N.C., will be the first cities to see the benefits of AT&T's plans to double the data download speeds on its wireless network. The six cities will be upgraded before the end of the year, the carrier said Wednesday. The iPhone 3GS is the only phone on the market now that will be able to take advantage of the speed increase. But AT&T pointed to five other "smart" phones and some USB dongles, which let laptops go online, that will go on sale before the end of the year. Those devices also will be able to take advantage of the new technology, known as HSPA, or High-Speed Packet Access. ***(AP)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Procurement and Installation of Standby Generator and Building
Port of Saipan
Project No. CPA-SS-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, is requesting for proposals for design/build services for procurement and installation of one (1) brand new generator with controls, housing and fuel tank to be situated at the Port of Saipan.

A detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 11, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 3:00 pm** at the Conference Room at the CPA Seaport Administrative Building. The project scope of work and location of the generator will be discussed. Attendance at this conference is mandatory for all companies interested in submitting proposals.

The contract period for design, installation and testing will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than Oct. 9, 2009.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

Q: How can I get the phone company to stop sending me phone books? They go straight to the recycling bin at our house.

A: For a lot of people, the Internet made the yellow and white pages obsolete sometime in the past decade—the last time I flipped through a phone book was six years ago in Italy, where I was delighted to see so many listings with my last name.

But directory publishers can still profit from these products, and so they keep depositing new copies on our doorsteps.

Furthermore, I've yet to see a phone book offer clear instructions about how to opt out of distribution. But you can now look that information up online at yellowpagesoptout.com, a site launched this month by two trade groups, the Yellow Pages Association and the Association of Directory Publishers.

Plug in your ZIP code, and the site will list publishers operating in your area, with phone numbers to call to opt out of distribution. In my case, the site found four companies—Idearc Media, which provides Verizon's phone books; Yellow Book USA, a competing firm; Chinese Yellow Pages, which has yet to send me a directory; and Your Community PhoneBook, a publisher of smaller, neighborhood-specific directories—and provided numbers for the first two.

At Idearc (call 800-888-8448, then press 2), I waited on hold for about three minutes, then only had to give a polite, cooperative representative my phone number, address and reason for my cancellation. At Yellow Book USA (800-929-3556, then press 1), I waited a minute before reciting my address and name to an equally genial rep.

Mission accomplished—assuming these companies keep their records straight. Now if I could just stop Comcast and Verizon from sending me two fliers a week about their TV and Internet services.

■■■

Q: Windows 7 will come with 32- and 64-bit editions in the box. Should I upgrade to 64-bit?

A: This "bitness" issue has come up before; with Windows 7 due in two months, many users will have to deal with it again.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Like earlier releases, Win 7 has a 64-bit version that can work with much larger files than the usual 32-bit edition. But it doesn't offer a major increase in speed and cannot run a shrinking but non-trivial number of older programs and driver software. (That problem doesn't occur in Mac OS X, which allows 32- and 64-bit code to coexist.)

I've heard from many readers who regretted going to 64-bit Windows because of incompatibility issues. I cannot remember when anybody wrote in to rave about their PC's performance after a 64-bit upgrade. So my advice for Windows 7 is the same as for Vista: If you've verified that your software and hardware will work in 64-bit Windows, you're free to upgrade. If you're not sure or don't know how to check, stick with 32-bit.

Note also that upgrading a 32-bit Vista system to 64-bit Windows 7 will require a destructive "custom" installation.

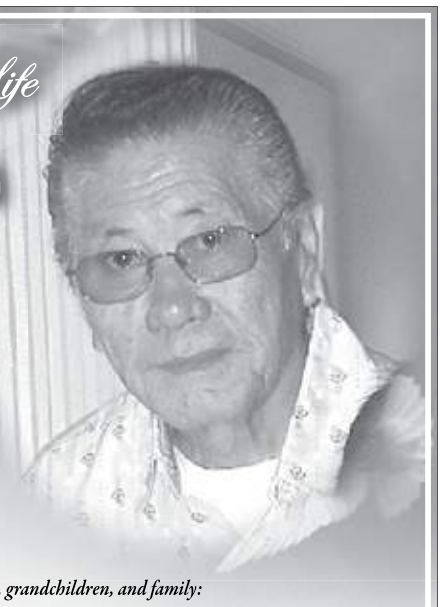
■■■

Q: The Norton security program on my Mac keeps warning me about "portscan" attacks, which appear to come from sites in China. How worried should I be?

A: Not much: *Any* computer on the Internet will get that kind of random inspection from afar. And as long as you've got a firewall and all current security patches in place, the bad guys can't tamper with your computer. You can think of these scans as the equivalent of strangers checking out your car after you've locked the doors and made sure nothing of value is visible inside.

In Celebration of His New Life

Jose (Noshinobu) Koyama Pangelinan
Better known as "Joe"



November 26, 1939 – September 6, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Henry Sablan Pangelinan & Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
Sister: Damiana Koyama Pangelinan
Parent-In-Laws: Vicente Vidal & Concepcion Camacho Borja Aguon
Brother & Sister-In-Laws: Juan, Katalina, Miguel, Gabriel, Vicente, Andres, Sarafin, Gregorio, Margarita, Ramon, Jesus, Rosalia, Juanita, Anuncia Borja Aguon

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his spouse, children, grandchildren, and family:

Spouse: Maria Aguon Pangelinan

Children:
Joseph A. & Maricel R. Pangelinan & Children
Arlene A. & Donald J. Pangelinan-Caserio
Benjamin A. & Kirsten S. Pangelinan & Children
Henry A. & Lynn A. Pangelinan & Children
Vincent A. & Pilar O. Pangelinan & Children
Steven A. Pangelinan & Children

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Frederick K. & Leonora DL. Pangelinan & Children
Ernesta K. & Tomas Rueb & Children
Mariano K. & Soledad C. Pangelinan & Children
Benny K. & Josie J. Pangelinan & Children
Vivian K.P. & Joaquin B. Cruz & Children
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan & Children
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan & Children
Henry Jr. K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan & Children
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan & Children
George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Children
Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Children
Glenn M. Pangelinan & Children
James M. Pangelinan
Michelle M. Pangelinan-Clark
Evonne M. Pangelinan
Evelyn P. Pangelinan
And the Koyama Family in Japan

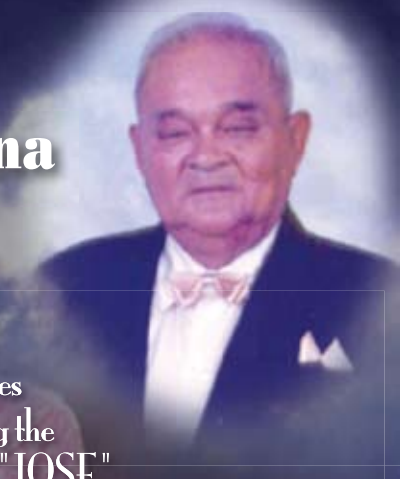
Reared Brother:
Sachio & Shizue Hashimoto & Children

He will also be missed by numerous cousins, cousin-in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, great-grand nephews, great-grandnieces, and relatives.

Nightly rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning Monday, September 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. On September 14, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Home and will be taken to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Memorial mass will be at 10:00 a.m. His remains will be repatriated to Guam on September 15, 2009. On September 16, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from Our Lady of Peace Memorial Home and will be taken to San Vicente Church in Barrigada. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 a.m., after which, his remains will be escorted to his final resting place at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens in Windward Hills, Yona.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
THE FAMILY

Message of Appreciation



We, the family of the late

†Jose Concepcion Muna
"Jose Dedi"

Wish to express our sincere and profound gratitude to each and everyone of our relatives and friends for your presence and prayers during the eight days of mass offered for our beloved "JOSE" husband, father and gandfather, and most expecially on the last day as we commemorate the fifth anniversary of his passage to eternal life.

Our special thanks to Most. Rev. Bishop Thomas A. Camacho, Rev. Father Isaac M. Ayuyu, Rev. Father Nonoy, the altar servers and the Enuia Tu Spiritu Choir for asisting in the Eucharistic Celebration.

We are truly blessed to have your love, comfort, support and kindness. We are greatful to all of you and you will always be in our hearts and prayers.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Consolacion Borja Muna
Children And Family

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We are blessed with God's gift of relatives and friends who have come to be with us to share the mourning for our departed loved one

†OCTAVIOUS MIKE TEIGITA PALACIOS
'SKEPPY'

Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us in bearing the sorrow and pain of our loss. Your prayers and the time you spent with us during the pass 18 nights of Holy Rosary and the Mass of Christian Burial and Interment Services has lightened the endurance of our pain and our great loss & loneliness.

Our special thanks to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Ambet, Fr. Noli and kantayi Choir. Our sincere appreciation to our techa, Edwina Taitano, the CHC & Asian Hospital doctors & staff, Team FAHA, Zogai team, Pohnpei Softball League Association, Juan S. Tenorio & family and IT&E All of us Club.

To all our family for your kindness, your love and your many ways of assistance have truly touched us and to all who gave us comfort and consolation, we thank you and everything will always be remembered.

Thank you and May God Bless Us All.

Allen & Carmelita T. Palacios
Maria I. Palacios

First Death Anniversary

In celebration of when our Heavenly Father lovingly called our Mother home to her everlasting life in paradise.

Margarita Benavente Seman

We the family, invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Daily Mass of Intention will be celebrated at the Saint Jude Church as follow:

September 14 – Monday	**6:00 p.m.**
September 15 – Tuesday	**6:00 p.m.**
September 16 – Wednesday	**6:00 p.m.**
September 17 – Thursday	**6:00 p.m.**
September 18 – Friday	**6:00 p.m.**
September 19 – Saturday	**7:00 a.m.**
September 20 – Sunday	**6:00 a.m, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**
September 21 – Monday	**6:00 p.m.**

Rosary will be held immediately after Mass. On Saturday and Sunday, Rosary will be said at 6:00 p.m. at the Saint Jude Church.

On the last day, Tuesday, September 22, 2009, the Rosary will be said at 5:30 p.m. before the Eucharistic celebration at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow immediately at her residence in As Lito.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Un' Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Famagu'on yan I Familia

Life & Style

Happy Golden Jubilee, Sister Martha!

By JESS R.A. SONODA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

On Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009, Sr. Martha Ramarui, MMB, will celebrate her Golden Jubilee as a consecrated woman of the Institute of Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz. Of her 50 years as a religious nun, Sr. Martha spent a total of 31 years serving this diocese. Because she has spent most of her religious life serving the Northern Marianas and has endeared herself to her people, she now affectionately calls Saipan "home."

At first shy and uneasy at the thought of her being featured in this article, Sr. Martha finally gave in to this interview, with the hope and prayer that something good may come out of her being given the spotlight in this story. Below is the result of my interview with this dedicated daughter of Blessed Maria Margarita Lopez de Maturana.

'Naughty girl'

Martha Ramarui was born on Feb. 23, 1937, in Nghesar, in the Republic of Palau. She came from a large family of nine boys and four girls, 13 in all. She was No. 11 and was followed by two younger sisters.

With an oldest girl plus nine older brothers ahead of her, Martha was understandably strongly influenced by her male siblings. They were her role models in her formative years. She grew up adopting many of their characteristics. At school, she fought quite frequently. She learned to defend herself and did not allow anyone, whether bigger or older, to step on her toes. Because of these traits, she was labeled a "tomboy," but she didn't care.

Martha also didn't hesitate to speak her mind. She was quite vocal in expressing herself. Additionally, she had a questioning and probing mind that, to older folks, seemed almost disrespectful. Her energy was of such intensity that she could pass for a hyperactive child.

With all these traits lumped together, Martha earned a reputation of being a "bad" or "naughty" girl among her aunts, uncles, and dad as well.

'I want to be good'

The unexpected turn in Martha's life came in grade school. One day, an old visiting priest came to their home. This priest told the children the story of St. Therese of the Little Flower. Martha was totally captured by this saint that she wanted to model her life after her. An overwhelming desire to be "good" enveloped her whole being. Perhaps the many years of carrying the disheartening label of being a "bad/naughty girl" got too heavy for the young girl that she now wanted to change. In young Martha's mind, St. Therese of the Little Flower was a "good girl" and a "good nun." She wanted to imitate St. Therese of the Little Flower all the way. In order to do this, she needed to be good and become a nun because she thought Sisters are good people.

Sewing machine or the sisterhood?

Martha's mom and dad were very religious. They brought their children up in the faith. Her dad was the village catechist and taught the youngsters of the village about God and the Catholic doctrines.

So Martha approached her mom about her desire to become a Sister. Her mom was overjoyed and told Martha to approach her father about her heart's desire.

However, when she did, her dad's immediate response was: "No, no, no, no, no. I will buy you a sewing machine and you will learn to sew because who's going to put clothes on your kids, who's going to dress them?"

Dad either failed to hear her daughter's words or he conveniently ignored them. Rather, he chose to remember what his daughter told him when, as a 6th grader, she came home excitedly and told her parents that a visitor had come to their school and talked to them about life, about marriage and children, etc. In her excitement, Martha had proudly announced that she would "get married very soon, have 13 children like mom and dad," and raise her very own family! This was music to Dad's ears and he promised Martha a sewing machine at once so he could help her fulfill her goal.

"But dad," objected Martha, 'I changed my mind. That was back then but this is what I want now." Dad would hear nothing of it as he emphasized his original response: "No, no, no, no, no! …I'll get you a sewing machine."

But Martha had inherited her unflinching stubbornness from their dad and would not take no for an answer either. She was determined to pursue the call at all costs. She even contemplated running away from home but the thought of hurting her parents was too much to bear. Besides, her mom, her older sister, and her brothers were all supportive of her plans. They rallied around her and asked her to be patient. Her mother cautioned her not to give up on her aspiration but to give her father time to get back his senses.

True enough, through prayers and encouragement from her family, her father finally relented as Martha was nearing her ninth-grade graduation. While helping out at the copra farm, her father suddenly asked: "About that thing you had been persistently asking me about [becoming a nun], do you still want to?" he asked. "Yes, yes, father, could I please, please?" she pleaded.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sr. Martha Ramarui, MMB, is celebrating her Golden Jubilee as a consecrated woman of the Institute of Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz.

In recalling those early years, Sr. Martha explained that now she understands why her dad was so adamant against her entering the convent. He gave in only after Martha finally convinced him of her dogged determination and tenacity to pursuing her vocation. "My father was so afraid of failure," she reasoned. "He pushed us to succeed, yet he would not allow us to fail!"

As her dad finally gave her his blessing and farewell, he told her: "You asked for this. This is what you wanted. This is your choice. Go then… I do not want you to come back," meaning he does not want his daughter to fail.

Where did the time go?

Because the Maryknoll Sisters in Palau were not accepting local vocations then, Martha had to travel to Pohnpei. With help from a priest who had made previous arrangements with the Mercedarian Sisters in Pohnpei, 10 girls from Palau left their home-islands to enter the convent. The date was Oct. 12, 1954, and Martha was 17 at the time. Formation for these girls took five years until Sept. 13, 1959, when they made their First Profession. Of the original 10, only Sr. Martha and Sr. Michaela (presently residing in Palau) are around to celebrate this day.

After taking her Perpetual Vows in Pohnpei, Sr. Martha worked in Pohnpei from 1959 to 1960. The following year she was assigned to Saipan at the Mt. Carmel School for the next three years (1960-'63). She was then sent to her native Palau for one year (1963-'64)—the first time she'd been home after nine years! In 1964-66, she came back to Saipan where she remained for one and a half-year. In 1966-70, she went for her studies in the U.S. mainland, then returned to Palau for the next four years (1970-74). The following year ('74-'75) she ended up in Rome until she was assigned to Guam where she resided from 1975-1982. While on Guam, Sr. Martha served as Regional Coordinator of Micronesia, earning the esteemed title of being the *first* Micronesian Regional Coordinator. From Guam she hopped over to Saipan and remained here for the next 11 years (1982-93). Needing a little break, Sr. Martha went on sabbatical to the Philippines for one year ('93-'94). In 1994, she returned to Saipan to take care of the elderly sisters: Srs. Antonia Lizama, Angelica Warakai, and Ursula Matsunaga until their departure from this world. (1994-2000).

Prior to taking care of her elderly sisters, Sr. Martha held leadership and mentorship positions as Formator of young sisters for many years (postulants, novices, temporary-professed sisters). Even up to the present, she still is in charge of her Junior sisters and is still a member of the Formation Team for her Institute.

In January of 2000, Sr. Martha spent five months in Guatemala (Jan-May) and upon her return, has remained here to date. Of her total 31 years spent on Saipan, Sr. Martha now fondly refers to Saipan as her "home" indeed!

Like the wind that blows swiftly, Sr. Martha's life has sped by, making these last 50 years seem like only yesterday. Although there have been many challenges and difficulties along the way, Sr. Martha also confessed that these were tempered by many occasions of love and joy in her commitment to Christ.

She wrote: "As a Mercedarian Missionary of Berriz sister, these 50 years of my life had been lived oriented to service and mission. As I look back, there is absolutely no regret, there is only a deep sense of joy and gratitude. In the spirit of my Merecedarian 4th vow, I tried to give my all in loving service to sisters and brothers wherever I had been sent. In return I have received a hundredfold and more of joy, graces, and blessings."

In another part of our interview she stated: "I belong to Christ. Jesus is the center of my life." She affectionately referred to Jesus as "my Enough," because His love for her is more than sufficient to sustain her forever. As for living with her sisters in community, she expressed: "I have found so much happiness and fulfillment in our living together in community. My Mercedarian community is one of my greatest gifts."

Whenever she felt tempted or is faced by some challenges in life, she prays: "I thank you Lord for calling me. I thank you for the grace that I have you in my life. Thank you for being my Enough, for having chosen me. My deepest desires are fulfilled in you."

> *I thank you Lord for calling me. I thank you for the grace that I have you in my life. Thank you for being my Enough, for having chosen me. My deepest desires are fulfilled in you.*

A challenge to the youth

Having worked with children and the youths, Sr. Martha issued this challenge to all young men and women of today: "God is calling you to something big and wonderful, to a life that is full and fulfilling. …Dream big and take time to listen to your heart so that you may hear God's personal call to you and make the right choice for yourself. …I invite and challenge you to give a thought to the possibility of following Jesus in a missionary life vocation as a nun or a priest. One thing for sure, you will never be rich but happy you will be!"

Fox says DeGeneres is new 'American Idol' judge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres is dancing her way into the fourth judge's seat on "American Idol."

Fox announced Wednesday the talk show host and comedian, who admittedly has no formal music experience, just a passion for tunes, would join Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi for the ninth season. The announcement all but seals the departure of Paula Abdul, the original third judge who announced she was quitting amid a contract dispute in July.

The announcement came as a shock to many of the popular singing competition's fans, who did not expect the Emmy-winning talk show host to fill Abdul's spot. DeGeneres told her talk show audience in an episode scheduled to air Thursday that she had been "dying to tell everyone" and would not abandon her chatfest. Instead, she will have "a day job and a night job."

DeGeneres

"The times we're living in," she quipped, "we're all doing that."

Abdul had been replaced by a succession of guest judges across the country as "Idol" started next season's auditions. Among them: Victoria Beckham, Mary J. Blige, Kristin Chenoweth, Joe Jonas, Neil Patrick Harris, Avril Lavigne, Katy Perry and Shania Twain—but not the 51-year-old DeGeneres, who will join the ninth season following the show's tryout rounds.

"Hopefully, I'm the people's point of view because I'm just like you," DeGeneres said on her talk show. "I sit at home and I watch it, and I don't have that technical ... I'm not looking at it in a critical way from the producer's mind. I'm looking at it as a person who is going to buy the music and is going to relate to that person."

It won't be DeGeneres' first time in a reality TV judge's seat—or on "Idol." She served as a guest judge earlier this summer on "So You Think You Can Dance," critiquing the dancing competition's top eight finalists. In 2007, she was the co-host of "Idol Gives Back," the singing contest's charity event. She returned the next year in a pre-taped segment.

"Beyond her incredible sense of humor and love of music, she brings with her an immense warmth and compassion that is almost palpable," said "Idol" executive producer and FremantleMedia North America CEO Cecile Frot-Coutaz. "She is one of America's foremost entertainers, and we cannot wait to have her join our team."

Beatlemania returns with rollout of CD, video game

AP

Alan Harrington, who queued from 3 am to be the first customer, reacts at a HMV store in London, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, where The Beatles remastered albums and the game 'The Beatles: Rock Band' was launched.

LONDON (AP)—Beatlemania is back with the rollout Wednesday of the Fab Four's remastered CDs and first-ever video game, reaching out to a whole new generation decades after their parents—and even grandparents—first succumbed.

It's been nearly 40 years since John, Paul, George and Ringo announced their breakup, but the new game and discs caused a worldwide buzz as the Beatles returned to the top of the charts in Britain, the land where it all began.

Fans flocked to get their hands on the long-awaited sonic masterpieces, with lines snaking outside record stores in London and Liverpool. Some die-hards jammed the streets outside Abbey Road, the landmark studio where the Beatles recorded many of their groundbreaking albums.

About 50 people gathered outside the HMV music store on London's Oxford Street early Wednesday—some, like university student Daniela Gutierrez, waiting in line since 3 a.m.

"My parents were huge Beatles fans and I grew up listening to their music," said Gutierrez, 25. "I can't wait to have the game and start playing the songs."

It's not exactly 1964—there were no fainting teens or other visible signs of feverish Beatlemania—but the long-awaited release brought the long-gone

See BEATLEMANIA on Page 28

Hugh Hefner files for divorce in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After more than a decade of separation, Hugh Hefner is seeking an official return to his bachelor status. The Playboy founder filed for divorce on Friday from his wife and former Playmate, Kimberly.

Hefner is asking a judge to order him to pay Kimberly Conrad Hefner $20,000 a month in spousal support. That would be half of the $40,000 a month that the Playboy founder has been paying her since they separated in 1998, the records state.

He wants the monthly payments to end in two years, or after a trial on the couple's divorce is held, whichever comes first.

Hefner, the 83-year-old founder of Playboy magazine and its public ambassador, has been living with three girlfriends at the infamous Playboy Mansion. Their relationship has been the subject of the E! show "The Girls Next Door" since 2005.

Hefner and Kimberly Conrad Hefner were married in 1989, the same year she was named Playmate of the Year. They separated in 1998. Hefner continued to live at the mansion, and Kimberly Hefner moved into a home next door with the couple's two young sons.

Records show she filed for divorce around that time, but the petition was eventually withdrawn.

Hefner

She sued Hefner last month, claiming he owes her $4 million under their prenuptial agreement and for proceeds from the sale of the home she is living in. Her lawsuit states Hefner agreed to pay her $250,000 per year for every year they were married after their fourth anniversary.

Hefner in his filings contends he paid his wife $750,000 when they separated, an amount he states he thought satisfied the prenuptial agreement.

Kimberly Hefner's attorney in the civil lawsuit did not return a phone message seeking comment on Wednesday.

Hefner states in court filings that he has paid almost $12 million to his wife and for her home since their separation.

The couple had two sons together, Marston and Cooper Hefner, who are now both in college.

Hefner, 83, states that he has paid his son's school expenses and will continue to do so.

Hefner founded Playboy magazine in 1953 and has since served as its pajama-clad public face.

In recent years, Hefner and his girlfriends—who have included Holly Madison, Kendra Wilkinson and Bridget Marquardt—have starred on "The Girls Next Door." His relationship with all three has since ended and he's now living with three new women, including twins.

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Whiteout
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht
Action, Thriller, Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
Carrie Stetko, the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, is investigating the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Now, with only three days until winter, Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness and she is stranded with the killer.

Sorority Row
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Briana Evigan, Leah Pipes
Thriller, Horror, Remake • Rated R

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Jeremy Piven, Ving Rhames
Comedy • Rated R

Gamer
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunnday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Set in the near future, a time when mind-control technology has taken society by storm. Humans control other humans in a mass-scale, multiplayer online game. Reclusive billionaire Ken Castle has created the controversial form of entertainment, "Slayers," a hugely popular game that allows millions to act out their innermost desires and fantasies–online–in front of a global audience. Gaming has evolved into a terrifying new dimension-mind control-manipulation-people playing people. At the center is Kable, the superstar and cult hero of "Slayers," the savage, ultra-violent first person shooter game.

Final Destination 4
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife
Friday 7:05 9:35
Saturday 7:05 9:35
Sunday 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 7:05
Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Shorts
Friday 4:10
Saturday 1:05 4:10
Sunday 1:05 4:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10
Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Source: Chris Brown won't perform Jackson tribute

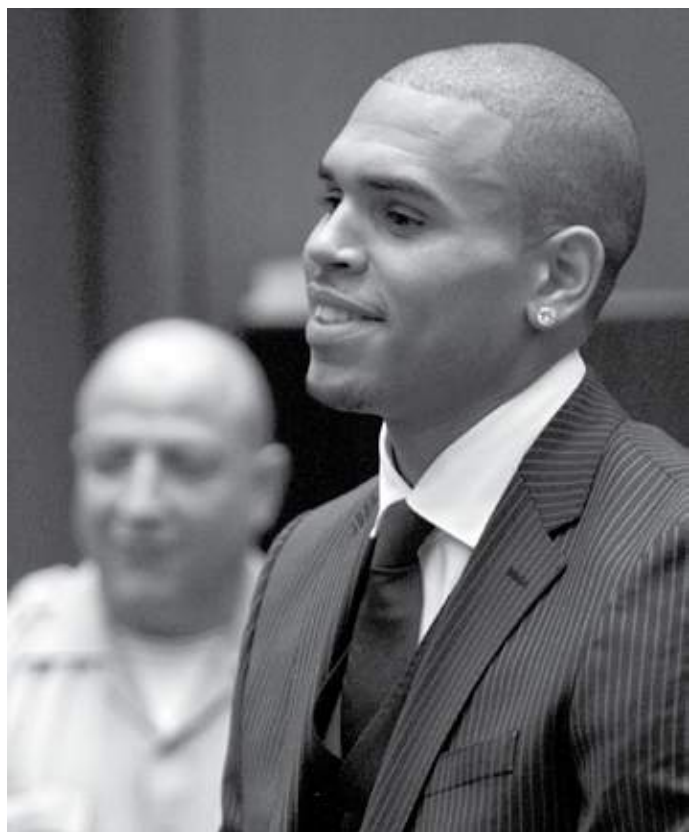
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown won't perform at a Michael Jackson tribute concert in Austria, contrary to statements by promoters, a person close to the situation said Wednesday. A publicist for Mary J. Blige, also touted for the show, said she won't be there either.

Brown never committed to perform at the concert in Vienna, said the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity. Karynne Tencer, a publicist for Blige, said Wednesday that she wanted to attend the Sept. 26 concert, but had another commitment.

Organizers at a press conference in Vienna on Tuesday told reporters that Brown, Blige, Natalie Cole and Akon were among the confirmed artists.

Cole spokeswoman Maureen O'Connor said the singer had discussed it with organizers, but she may have a conflict and is not 100 percent confirmed. A representatives for Akon did not immediately return messages left Wednesday.

A concert spokesman did not immediately return an e-mail message.



AP

Aug. 25, 2009 picture, Chris Brown stands before the judge during his sentencing for assaulting his girlfriend Rihanna, at Los Angeles County Superior Court in Los Angeles.

Jackson's brother Jermaine, who first announced the concert last month on "Larry King Live," said in London on Wednesday that he was confident Brown would appear. And concert promoter Georg Kindel said that a Los Angeles judge was scheduled to rule Wednesday on whether Brown, 20, could travel to the show.

No motion has been filed with the judge handling Brown's criminal case, court spokeswoman Vania Stuelp said, and the person with knowledge of the singer's situation said none would be filed. Brown, who is serving five years of probation for beating his former girlfriend, Rihanna, would need the judge's permission for any international travel, Stuelp said.

"Chris Brown is working out some situations but he definitely expressed to us that he wants to be here and it's just up to what he's going through with his court case right now but he's definitely going to work that out and be here," Jermaine Jackson said Wednesday at the London press conference. He said "people make mistakes" and Brown deserved forgiveness.

The concert is being billed as the main global tribute for the King of Pop, who died June 25 in Los Angeles.

Jermaine Jackson also said he hoped Stevie Wonder would take part in the show, to be staged in front of a 17th-century palace in the Austrian capital.

Dancers Karina Smirnoff, Maksim Chmerkovskiy split

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Dancing With the Stars" pros Karina Smirnoff (kuh-REE'-nuh SMEER'-nahf) and Maksim Chmerkovskiy (MAKS'-ihm shmehr-KAWF'-skee) are no longer in step with one another.

Susan Madore, a publicist who works on the ABC show, says the two professional dancers broke off their engagement over the weekend.

Smirnoff and Chmerkovskiy will continue to appear on "Dancing With the Stars." Smirnoff is paired with Aaron Carter and Chmerkovskiy with Debi Mazar for the upcoming season, which premieres Sept. 21.

The two pro dancers had postponed planning their wedding to appear in "Burn the Floor" on Broadway over the summer. They wrapped their roles last month.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

It's a boy for Nicole Richie and Joel Madden

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nicole Richie and Joel Madden are parents of a newborn baby boy. The couple named their newborn son Sparrow James Midnight Madden. Richie says on her Web site that the 7 pound, 14 ounce (3.6-kilogram) baby boy was born early Wednesday. Sparrow is the second child for Richie and Madden. Their daughter, Harlow, will be 2 in January. Richie, 27, became a clothing and accessories designer after starring with Paris Hilton on TV reality show "The Simple Life." Madden, 30, fronts the band Good Charlotte and runs the DCMA Collective clothing line with his twin brother, Benji.

Katherine Heigl and husband adopting a baby

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Heigl and her husband Josh Kelley are adopting a baby. Melissa Kates, Heigl's spokeswoman, confirmed the news but wouldn't provide details. RadarOnline.com reports that the couple's adoption process has been in the works for at least six months and that the 10-month-old girl is from Korea. The report also says the baby's name is Nayleigh, and her nickname will be Leigh. Heigl plays Dr. Izzie Stevens on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy." Kelley is a singer-songwriter. The couple have been married since 2007.

5 acts advance to 'America's Got Talent' finals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A contorting breakdancer from Oregon, an opera singer from Texas, a percussive quartet from New Hampshire, a baritone singer from California and a singer-guitarist from Maryland round out the final slate of competitors on "America's Got Talent." Five other acts were dismissed from the NBC talent show during Wednesday's episode. Viewers selected the five finalists through phone, e-mail and text message votes. Judges Piers Morgan, Sharon Osbourne and David Hasselhoff forfeited their "judges' pick" after breaking the rules last week. The three failed to choose between the fourth- and fifth-place finalists and allowed both to proceed. All 10 finalists are vying for a $1 million prize and the chance to headline a Las Vegas show in October. They will each offer their final performances on Monday's episode.

ACLU pipes up in defense of jailed Richard Hatch

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The American Civil Liberties Union wants reality TV star Richard Hatch freed from a jail where he has been held on charges of giving unauthorized interviews. Lawyers for the ACLU of Massachusetts on Wednesday sought the "Survivor" winner's release from the Barnstable County jail in Bourne, Mass. Hatch was taken into custody Aug. 18 after giving TV interviews that the federal Bureau of Prisons said it had not approved. He was serving home confinement for failing to pay income taxes on his $1 million prize for winning the first season of the show. During the interviews, Hatch said the trial judge discriminated against him because he was gay. The ACLU says Hatch has a right to criticize the government.

BEATLEMANIA

From Page 27

band to the top of the charts maintained by online retailer Amazon.co.uk.

Or, as John Lennon liked to say, "to the toppermost of the poppermost."

Uma Nolan, an Irish nurse visiting London, came to the Abbey Road studio to be photographed at the pedestrian crossing made famous on the "Abbey Road" album cover. She plans to buy the entire set of 17 CDs—even though she already has all the songs in the collection.

"I will absolutely go out and buy them," she said. "I'm a huge Beatles fan and have every single LP in original first edition copies. They were the first real pop group. The entire generation was waiting for that to happen. They sent worldwide pop culture off into orbit."

Nolan, 50, said remastering the Beatles albums will introduce them to a new generation.

"It brings them up do date and modernizes their music," she said. "You're enhancing what was really to begin with, so that can't be a bad thing."

High prices are apparently no deterrent—Amazon.com sold out its allotment of pre-orders for the Beatles box set, priced at $260 (170 pounds) and has a waiting list of buyers.

The robust sales are expected to add to the already considerable wealth of Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, the "thank my lucky stars" drummer who joined the band just before it had its first hit, as well as Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison, the widows of the late John Lennon and George Harrison. Court records publicized last year put McCartney's net worth at about $800 million.

It's also expected to boost the value of the estate of the late Michael Jackson, who owned a substantial share in the publishing rights to the Beatles' fabled back catalog.

"The Beatles: Rock Band" video game also is expected to sell well, opening a new revenue stream for the band.

Woman chooses cruel answer to question of unwanted cat

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law, "Ray," and his wife moved in with my husband's parents for a few months until they could get back on their feet. They have two small boys and a cat, "Precious," they have had since they were first married.

They looked for an apartment to rent, but could not find one that would allow pets. My mother-in-law, "Loretta," was anxious for them to move out, so she told them to take the apartment and she'd keep the cat at her home.

Shortly after, Loretta asked my husband to secretly get rid of it. (Her husband had refused.) When my husband said he couldn't do it, she took matters into her own hands, drove Precious 10 miles away from her house and dumped her on the side of the road.

Ray and the kids went to her home every day to set out milk and look for their kitty. They also checked with the local animal shelter. About 10 days later, they found Precious at the shelter. They had to pay to re-adopt her—money they didn't have to spare. Not knowing what I know, they then returned their cat to Loretta!

Should I tell Ray the truth so they can rescue their cat, or keep mum so as not to make my mother-in-law angry by revealing the awful thing she did?

ON THE FENCE IN NEVADA

DEAR ON THE FENCE: What your mother-in-law did was unconscionable. I don't know how many of Precious' nine lives were used up after she was abandoned, but house pets usually die from starvation, exposure, attacks by predators or encounters with vehicles after being dumped as she was.

If you can't bring yourself to tell your brother-in-law what happened to his furry family member, clip this and mail it to him with a note explaining that it contains an important message. After all, someone must speak for the voiceless.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved into a new home a few months ago. On our first night in our new residence, an emotionally disturbed relative came over and caused a scene which resulted in the police being called to have the person removed from our home. Since then, we have been shunned by our neighbors.

I was hoping for a friendly welcome, but I haven't gotten so much as a "hello," let alone a plate of cookies.

How should we handle this? I realize that because of the police incident, the neighbors may think we have domestic issues—or worse. I don't know how to improve the bad impression that was created -- especially since it was not our fault. Please help.

WAITING FOR THE WELCOME WAGON
IN INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR WAITING: If you see a neighbor, smile, say hello and introduce yourself. As to "waiting for the welcome wagon," in many areas the custom of welcoming newcomers into the neighborhood has died out. So why not take the initiative, bake a couple of batches of cookies or buy some candy for the neighbors on either side of you and immediately across the street. Write a short note to be included with each, saying, "We apologize for not doing this sooner, but my husband and I were embarrassed by what happened the night we moved in. A relative caused the disturbance. We are very sorry you were inconvenienced. Sincerely, ___"

That should help you break the ice.

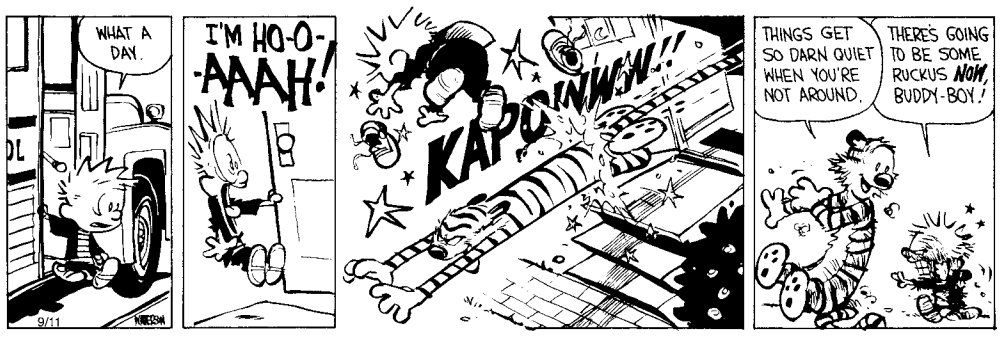
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT A DAY.
I'M HO-O--AAAH!
KAPOWW!!
THINGS GET SO DARN QUIET WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND.
THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME RUCKUS NOW, BUDDY-BOY!
9/11

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ ALWAYS WANTS TO DO GIRL THINGS
TODAY WE WENT TO A CRAFTS FAIR...
AND I... *SOB!* ENJOYED IT!
THERE, THERE... LET'S GO LIE ON THE COUCH AND SCRATCH OURSELVES
JIM DAVIS 9-11
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate www.garfield.com

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. I NEED YOU TO STOCK THESE SHELVES WITH OUR BEST-SELLERS.
GOT IT. STOCK SHELVES. BEST-SELLERS. SAY, WHEN DO I...
PLEASE DON'T SAY IT.
... GET MY FIRST COFFEE BREAK?
(SIGH) WORK NOW, BREAK LATER.
WHERE'S THE 'DEALING WITH POWER TRIPS' SECTION?
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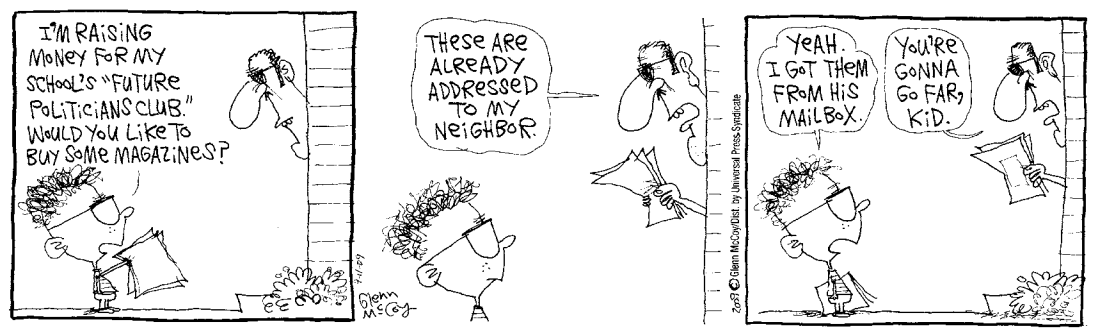
9-11

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M RAISING MONEY FOR MY SCHOOL'S "FUTURE POLITICIANS CLUB." WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY SOME MAGAZINES?
THESE ARE ALREADY ADDRESSED TO MY NEIGHBOR.
YEAH. I GOT THEM FROM HIS MAILBOX.
YOU'RE GONNA GO FAR, KID.
Glenn McCoy
©Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Thespian
6 "Birth — Nation"
9 Edwards or Andrews (Abbr.)
12 Commercial for a TV show
13 Bribe
14 Grazing land
15 Mature
16 Lightweight outerwear
18 "For sure"
20 Emcee
21 "Eureka!"
23 Eventual aves
24 Big and strong
25 Bull's-eye hitter
27 Standish stand-in
29 "Sophie's Choice" author
31 Boxing combination
35 English homework, perhaps
37 Luke's mentor
38 Perhaps
41 Sleep phenom
43 Calif. hours
44 Garfield's pal
45 "Raging Bull" star
47 Kewpie doll feature
49 Jordanian money
52 Raw rock
53 Blond shade
54 Fashion
55 In medias —
56 Pod dweller
57 Entice

DOWN
1 Spring mo.
2 Dernier —
3 Botanical sculpture
4 Portent
5 Sonata movement
6 Bony
7 Comestibles
8 Software program
9 Unfriendly
10 Banquet
11 Cuckoo
17 Biden predecessor
19 Country singer Sara
21 Billboards
22 Chapeau
24 Coop occupant
26 Man with all the answers?
28 Senior member
30 Sugar suffix
32 Place name
33 Sentence pts.
34 Feedbag morsel
36 "Queen of Soul"
38 Engine
39 Worship
40 "Holy smoke!"
42 Central part
45 Rx measure
46 Ceremony
48 Siesta
50 Jungfrau, for one
51 On pension (Abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	E	D	■	E	B	B	■	G	E	N	E
T	I	M	E	■	X	I	I	■	O	X	E	N
A	S	I	F	■	C	O	L	■	S	P	E	D
G	A	T	E	A	U	■	L	A	S	E	R	S
■	■	■	A	S	S	■	T	I	L	■	■	■
A	B	E	T	■	E	X	E	M	P	L	A	R
P	O	X	■	■	M	E	X	■	■	E	D	O
E	X	P	O	N	E	N	T	■	E	D	D	Y
■	■	L	I	E	■	E	M	S	■	■	■	■
I	S	O	L	D	E	■	R	E	C	A	L	L
F	A	R	M	■	L	E	I	■	O	H	I	O
F	R	E	E	■	A	G	O	■	R	O	M	P
Y	A	R	N	■	N	O	R	■	T	Y	P	E

Yesterday's answer 9-11

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53			■	54				
55			■	56			■	57				

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariana Richards, 30; Ludacris, 32; Harry Connick Jr., 42; Moby, 44

Happy Birthday: Proceed with caution. The last thing you want is to come across as a know-it-all. Emotional matters will cause undue stress if you promise too much. Being well-organized and charming will be your ticket to success. Protect your home and family. Your numbers are 10, 12, 22, 26, 34, 37, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Getting angry won't solve anything. Don't give in to pressure at home when a little outside information will help you fight back and win. Someone you love and respect will have some valuable ideas that can help you raise interest in what you are pursuing. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone playing emotional games with you is likely to tempt you. Say no to any added responsibilities. It's important to protect your home and family from anyone trying to mislead or take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to the people, projects and pastimes that will help you get ahead. As soon as you get involved with negative people or those wanting to change the way you are, you will be fighting to hold on instead of getting on with your life. The choice is yours. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It's about time you made some changes at home and with regard to your relationships with family. Talk with everyone about your dreams, hopes and wishes for the future. You'll be surprised how many will stand beside. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can make headway if you get involved in something you feel strongly about. The people you meet and the talks you have will lead to an interesting proposal and partnership. It's time to take charge and be a leader. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Watch your back. Someone you think you can trust may be jealous or after the same position you are. Don't share your secrets or your plans. Instead, do your best and present yourself professionally. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you procrastinate, you'll only have yourself to blame. You can expect to face opposition but move swiftly before you lose what's being made available to you. A short trip will pay off and give you a different outlook. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Find an inner circle of people in your industry, your history or your favorite pastimes and you can incorporate what you love into what you do for a living. With a unique spin, you can turn your projects into something tangible. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your emotions will get in the way, leading you into dangerous, personal territory that has added responsibilities. Property, investments or buying and selling possessions you no longer use will help you financially. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Everything will be dependent on how you conduct yourself regarding a pending financial or legal problem. Make concessions that allow the people you are dealing with to feel you are giving them something in return. A passionate encounter will bring about a worthwhile change. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your heart and soul into making things better at home. If you take a chance or make a move, you will end up with more cash for the things you enjoy doing. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There will be plans going on behind your back. Rely on someone you have been there for in the past to weed out information and fill in the blanks. You cannot make a decision that will affect your home, family and your next move without having all the facts. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, emotional and candid about the way you feel. You set your own rules. You are popular and entertaining.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6							7	5
1								
			3	4	9			
		7		1		8		
		2	7		8	6		
		3		6		9		
			5	2	7			
								3
7	4							6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	5	3	1	6	2	8	4
1	4	3	8	5	2	7	6	9
6	2	8	9	4	7	1	5	3
7	8	6	5	9	1	3	4	2
4	9	2	7	3	8	6	1	5
5	3	1	6	2	4	8	9	7
2	5	9	1	6	3	4	7	8
8	1	4	2	7	9	5	3	6
3	6	7	4	8	5	9	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SMELLING SALTS **Solution: 8 letters**

C	S	E	T	E	L	H	T	A	R	O	U	S	E	E
C	O	M	B	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	G	A	T	R
O	R	N	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	E	P	N	A
N	R	A	C	L	M	U	C	O	U	S	R	E	E	C
S	E	S	E	E	L	S	X	L	R	E	T	T	M	T
C	G	A	N	O	N	Y	H	E	P	A	H	(E)	T	I
I	G	L	I	I	G	T	N	A	R	E	T	(S)	A	V
O	I	I	F	E	W	O	R	O	R	O	M	(O)	E	I
U	R	F	N	E	I	A	G	A	S	P	T	(D)	R	T
S	T	T	N	T	T	I	P	A	T	E	O	S	T	Y
N	H	E	U	I	V	Y	S	U	N	I	S	I	E	T
E	R	L	O	N	S	L	I	R	T	S	O	N	L	R
S	O	N	I	I	C	N	O	I	T	A	S	N	E	S
S	A	I	N	O	M	M	A	C	O	A	C	H	E	S
S	T	I	R	I	P	S	T	I	M	U	L	A	N	T

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 9/11

Activity, Ammonia, Athletes, Care, Coaches, Combination, Concentration, Consciousness, Dose, Fine, Invigorate, Laboratory, Lift, Lungs, Membrane, Mucous, Nasal, Nostrils, Oils, Oxygen, Preparation, Renew, Restore, Rouse, Sensation, Senses, Sharp, Sinus, Smell, Sniff, Solution, Spirits, Stimulant, Therapy, Throat, Treatment, Trigger

Yesterday's Answer: Molecules

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total) each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

BAR FOR SALE
CLUB BILLY BONES
LOCATED IN GARAPAN
✦ COMPLETE TURNKEY OPPORTUNITY
✦ PRICED FOR QUICK SALE
CONTACT MARY @ 287-4299

NO MORE ILLEGAL TAXI!
TAXI SERVICE
$3.00 per person
24-HOUR SERVICE-285-5549

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No.	Position	Compensation (per annum)	Opening/Closing Date
09-041	Trades Technician (Mechanic-Operator), Rota 1 Position	$17,282.00 - $23,115.00	09/10/09 - 09/24/09
09-042	Trades Technician (Electrician-Operator), Rota 1 Position	$17,282.00 - $23,115.00	09/10/09 - 09/24/09

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please stop by the Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

LOST DOG

RIZZO, A BLACK & BEIGE COLORED MALE DOG WITH **FADED BLUE COLLAR** AROUND HIS NECK, LEFT HOME IN **DANDAN** 5 WEEKS NOW.

WHEN RIZZO FIRST LEFT HOME, NO ONE OUT THERE KNEW WHO HE BELONGED TO. IF ANYONE HAS HIM (I THANK YOU FOR FEEDING HIM) OR HAS KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, KINDLY FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO CALL **233-2322/483-3027**.

NOW THAT HE IS IDENTIFIED TO THIS NUMBER, IT IS OK TO CALL AND WE WILL NEGOTIATE THE REWARD.

THE FAMILY OF RIZZO

FOR SALE

Two-20 foot steel shipping container. Excellent condition. Cheap! Call 287-1073.

Mahensia Mereb
P.O. Box 506244
Saipan, MP 96950

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF :	FCD AD Civil Action No. 09-0531
KIARA LEENETTE DILBUDECH LEEMARVIN, Minor Child, By:	NOTICE OF HEARING
MAHENSIA MEREB, Petitoner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 19, 2009 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Lean cuisine

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

2 B/R 2.5 BT, LOCATED IN CHALAN PIAO BEACH AREA, STARTING $500.00 MONTHLY. WITH WATER HEATER, GARBAGE, GOV. WATER AND ELECTRICITY, 1,000 GALLON WATER RESERVE, WASHER / DRYER, TV & TELEPHONE HOOK UP, ALONG WITH YAMAHA PIANO, KING SIZE BED, LARGE SIZE FREEZER, 6 DRAWER DRESSER. FULLY AIR CONDITIONED WITH 3 STRIP AIR CONDITIONERS.

FULLY FENCED WITH CHAIN LINK AROUND THE 862 SQ MT YARD & QUITE NEIGBORHOOD.

WALKING DISTANCE TO U.S. MAIN POST OFFICE, CHALAN KANOA BEACH HOTEL & GOLDEN RIBBON RESTAURANT.

CALL DOMINGO MERCADO
HOME 288-3571 / CELL 286-3571.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CUISINE

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Find today's solution in this section

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DLNR09-IFB- 150

SMILING COVE MARINA REHABILITATION PROJECT SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife, are soliciting sealed bids for the Smiling Cove Marina Rehabilitation Project, Saipan. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (**CNMI**).

The project package consisting of plans, specifications, and bid documents will be available on or after September 11, 2009. Interested bidders should obtain the project package at the Pacific Quick Print & Post, located along Middle Road in Garapan, Saipan. The project package shall be released upon payment of the copying cost for each set, non-refundable amount to be determined, to Pacific Quick Print & Post. Interested bidders must provide a photocopy of the project package payment receipt in its bid. Any bids submitted without a photocopy of the payment receipt shall be rejected and not considered. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on September 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish and Wildlife conference room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the Invitation for Bids before submitting a bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 7, 2009 to **Mr. Sylvan O. Igisomar**, Director of Fish and Wildlife, Lower Base, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-6060 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, October 7, 2009.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DLNR09-IFB-150"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on October 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on October 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 22, 2009, and must be received no later than November 2, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. local time on November 6, 2009. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on October 27, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". The surety company shall hold a Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Sixty One (**161**) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Four Hundred dollars (**US$400.00**) per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, DVM
Secretary, Department of Lands and Natural Resources

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-021

Public School System Media Services

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified individuals or firms to help write, edit and layout the monthly PSS news, assist in drafting weekly press releases and develop a quarterly newsletter.

Beginning August 28, 2009, the Scope of Work and related information is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Requests faxed to 664.3791 will also be entertained.

A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held at 10:00 AM, September 16, 2009 in the Commissioner of Education's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Proposals shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked **"RFP 09-021 - Media Services"** containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 10:30 AM on September 23, 2009. Any proposal received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Tim Thornburgh, Federal Programs Officer, via fax to 664.3767 or e-mailed to thornburght@gmail.com.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-030

ROAD SHOULDER REPAIR AND RESTORATION
ROUTE 10, CM-NH-1000(005) ER
ROUTE 100, CM-NH-0100(002) ER

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Route 10 & 100 Road Shoulder Repair and Restoration, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Documents will be available on or after September 4, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for September 24, 2009, 1:00 p.m.. local time at the Rota Mayor's Office Rota Conference Room. After the pre-bid there will be a site visit for Route 10 and Route 100. It is very important for the bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project.

Prospective bidders should carefully examine and review the invitation for bids. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, Suite 212, Joeten-Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-030"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 13, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 13, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to ***procurement@pticom.com.*** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 13, 2009, and must be received no later than October 22, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 27, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 16, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Projects, FP-96, or One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars ($1,400.00) whichever is greater.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, vs. ANTONIO S. CAMACHO, ELPHIDIA MSP. CAMACHO, and CNMI DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, Defendants.	) Civil Action No. 04-0588C)))) NOTICE OF AUCTION))))

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, here-inafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, here-inafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Antonio S. Camacho and Elphidia MSP. Camacho, jointly and severally, in the following described, lease of real property situated at the Commercial Port of Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

25 Year Ground Lease (File No. 88-348)
- Dated November 25, 1986
- Between Antonio Salas Camacho and the Commonwealth Ports Authority
- Of that certain tract parcel of land situated at the Commercial Port, designated as **Lot no. 032 E 03**, containing an area of 5,043 square meters (54,264.176 square feet), including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

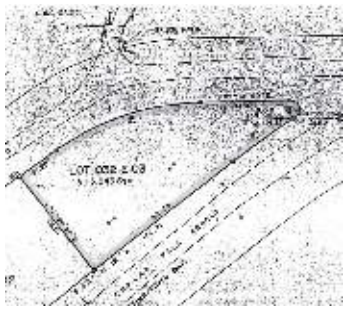
The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 25, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conduction the auction:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject , on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price musb be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. **Bidders are cautioned to inspect the lease, title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the Defendants Antonio S. Camacho and Elphedia MSP Camacho in the lease and property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the lease or real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 28th day of August, 2009.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Legal Description	Lot 032 E 03	**Utilities Available**	Power, Water, Telephone, Sewer, Cable
Total Land Area	5,043 sqm	**Highest & Best Use as Improved**	Continued Industrial Use
Location	Puerto Rico Lower Base	**Concluded Final Leasehold Value Estimate**	$178,000.00
Zoning	Industrial	**Rights Appraised**	Leasehold Interest



Oudin's magical ride ends with loss in quarters

NEW YORK (AP)—Maybe it all was a little too much, a little too soon for Melanie Oudin. The 17-year-old from Marietta, Ga., kept erasing big deficits and upsetting older, taller, higher-ranked players at the U.S. Open, generating more and more interest in her magical ride.

Her gutsy play, aw-shucks approach and those pink-and-yellow sneakers with "BELIEVE" on the heels carried Oudin all the way to the quarterfinals at the American Grand Slam tournament. That's where her surprising story ended Wednesday night with a 6-2, 6-2 loss to No. 9-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

"It was a lot," Oudin conceded. "These past two weeks have been really different for me. I've gone from being just a normal, like, tennis player to almost everyone in the United States knowing who I am now."

Then, keeping a brave face, Oudin added: "I don't think that affected my tennis game tonight at all."

Perhaps. Still, facing Wozniacki in the sport's largest arena, playing under the bright lights in the big city, Oudin showed signs of shakiness at the start, dropping 14 of the first 18 points. Even the comeback kid couldn't recover from that.

"This has been a great experience for me. I had a great run here," the 70th-ranked Oudin told the crowd during an on-court interview right after the match, an honor usually reserved for the winner. "I hope to come back next year and do even better."

It'll be hard to top her 2009 U.S. Open.

With impressive court coverage and solid groundstrokes, the 5-foot-6 Oudin knocked off four more established players—including three-time major champion Maria Sharapova and Beijing Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva—to become the youngest quarterfinalist at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams in 1999.

Making the tale even better: Oudin's last three victories each came after she dropped the first set. Plus, there was her wide-eyed, age-appropriate attitude: Everything was "cool" and "awesome," including meeting Roger Federer for the first time and finally getting to shake hands with Sharapova—only after beating her, of course.

Away from the court, there was heady stuff, too. Extra interviews and photo ops. Greetings from strangers on the street. Autograph-seekers in the hotel lobby.

"She's just had so much other activity going on that mentally she wasn't quite as focused as she should've been," said Oudin's mother, Leslie. "All this comes with experience, and she'll learn how to handle this better."

As Oudin's coach, Brian de Villiers, put it: "Yeah, I think, over time, the distractions might have gotten to her."

An additional distraction did not come to light until Wednesday night, when SI.com reported that Oudin's father, John, filed for divorce from Leslie in July 2008 on grounds of adultery. According to the report, John Oudin alleged in a sworn statement last month that his wife had an affair with de Villiers.

John Oudin was not in his daughter's guest box Wednesday night.

She made 43 unforced errors, 23 more than Wozniacki, who also was playing in her first major quarterfinal. In essence, Oudin ran smack-dab into a version of herself, a counterpunching baseliner who was far steadier on this night.

"She plays incredible defense and makes me hit 1,000 balls," Oudin said. "I could have been more consistent and more patient."

Wozniacki leads the women's tour in match victories this season and, while all of 19, is a relative veteran next to Oudin. Wozniacki is tied for the tour lead with three titles in 2009, including a hard-court tournament in New Haven, Conn., the week before the U.S. Open began, meaning she is on a 10-match winning streak.

"I'm sorry that I won against Melanie today," Wozniacki told the partisan fans, some of whom cheered when she double-faulted. "I know that many of you wanted Melanie to win."

Now the Dane will play her first Grand Slam semifinal against another 19-year-old, Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium. The 50th-ranked Wickmayer—never before past the second round at a major tournament—beat Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine 7-5, 6-4.

The other women's semifinal Friday features two far more familiar names: defending champion Williams against 2005 champion Kim Clijsters.

The men's semifinals Saturday will include—no surprise here—Federer, who improved to 12-0 against Robin Soderling by beating the 12th-seeded Swede 6-0, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (6) Wednesday night. Federer, seeking a sixth consecutive U.S. Open title, extended his own record by reaching a 22nd straight Grand Slam semifinal.

Federer will put his 39-match Flushing Meadows winning streak on the line against No. 4 Novak Djokovic, who eliminated No. 10 Fernando Verdasco of Spain 7-6 (2), 1-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Wozniacki never appeared intimidated by the hostile crowd of 23,881, most of whom waited and waited for a reason to roar for their girl. While Oudin's twin sister, younger sister and coach were wearing black T-shirts with "BELIEVE" in yellow lettering, Wozniacki's personal cheering section of about 15 strong had many more chances to celebrate.

Their applause and yells of encouragement were quite audible in Arthur Ashe Stadium early on as Oudin's error count mounted. It took less than 10 minutes for Wozniacki to seize a 3-0 lead, cleverly constructing points.

After many of her mistakes, Oudin would walk to the edge of the court, her back to the net, and fiddle with her strings. When she did find success with her deep groundstrokes, many of which landed right near the baseline, Oudin would turn toward Mom with a raised fist and yell "Come on!"

Wozniacki only really showed some nerves after already leading 5-1. She missed a backhand, then a forehand, and later double-faulted to get broken for the only time. Still, Wozniacki righted herself right away, breaking back to take the set when Oudin missed a backhand.

To no one's surprise, Oudin made bids to make things interesting in the second set.

At 1-1, Oudin held two break points—and pushed a forehand return of a 71 mph second serve wide, then sailed a forehand long. Then, at 2-all, Oudin again earned two break points—and sent a backhand wide on the first, then a forehand long on the second.

And that, essentially, was that. Wozniacki won that game and each of the next four.

While so much of the focus around these parts has been on Oudin, Wickmayer's story is quite intriguing and inspiring.

When she was 9, her mother died of cancer, and little Yanina set out to find a fresh start, researching tennis academies on the Internet before settling on one in Florida.

Talk about precocious, ambitious and adventurous: Yanina had only recently started playing tennis. Neither she nor her father spoke English.

But this is what had to be done.

Her father closed his pool construction company in Belgium, and relatives supported the pair financially while they lived in Florida for 2 1/2 years.

"He just gave everything up for me," Yanina said. "He just left. He listened to a girl that was 9 years old and left his life, left his dreams. I'm always going to respect him for that."

Marc Wickmayer was in the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands Wednesday, watching his daughter play the biggest match of her career—and win it.

"I have no words for what he's done," Yanina said. "There is no way of thanking him in any way for what he did, but I hope with my semis here this week, I can show him that I really thank him for everything."

AP

Caroline Wozniacki, right, of Denmark, chats with Melanie Oudin, of the United States, after defeating Oudin in two sets in their match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

NFL BRIEFS

DA reviewing Chargers' Merriman case

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The District Attorney's Office on Wednesday began reviewing accusations of domestic violence that reality TV star Tila Tequila brought against star linebacker Shawne Merriman of the San Diego Chargers. The DA will review reports from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and decide if the player known as "Lights Out" will be charged. Merriman was arrested early Sunday after Tequila accused him of choking and throwing her to the ground while she was trying to leave his home in suburban Poway. Tequila signed a citizen's arrest warrant accusing Merriman of battery and false imprisonment. Both are felonies. Spokesman Paul Levikow said the DA's office can charge Merriman, reject the accusations or refer them to the San Diego City Attorney's Office for consideration as misdemeanors.

Favre says he 'may not' be an ironman this season

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Remember Brett Favre's first answer to Vikings coach Brad Childress? My body isn't up for this, he said. Six weeks later, Minnesota's new quarterback wants to remind the football world just how old he is. "I may not finish the year. If you would have asked me my first year if I would finish I'd have said, 'I may not,'" Favre said. "No one thought I'd play 18 straight years without missing a game, me included. I have no idea what's going to happen. None." After his initial rejection on July 28, Favre accepted the coach's offer to join the Vikings on Aug. 18 for this too-good-to-pass-up opportunity to play for a title-contending team. His reasoning? He didn't want to regret not trying, not even at age 39. Unless Favre visited some secret Mississippi version of the Fountain of Youth during that time, however, the health of one of the most durable athletes in history is still in question. Favre acknowledged as much Wednesday, the day a rocking chair appeared in front of his cubicle in the locker room courtesy of an unknown prankster.

Owens not a big fan of Bills no-huddle offense

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Receiver Terrell Owens doesn't have a problem with the Buffalo Bills no-huddle offense, except that it's tiring him out. Owens raised eyebrows on Wednesday when he said he wasn't much of a fan of the Bills new scheme. "No, not really, but I gotta deal with it," the receiver said in a conference call with members of the Patriots media as the Bills prepare to open the regular season at New England on Monday. Owens laughed after making that statement, though it was not clear whether his concern was with the no-huddle scheme itself or how much it's been tiring him out. Owens returned to practice last week after missing the final four preseason games with a sprained toe. Upon learning that his comments were being taken literally, Owens posted a note on his Twitter page insisting that he was "clearly joking."

Jeter ties Yankees hit record; Posada's HR wins it

NEW YORK (AP)— Derek Jeter tied Lou Gehrig atop the Yankees hit list as New York rallied for a 4-2 victory and a four-game sweep of Tampa Bay in the American League on Wednesday.

Pinch-hitter Jorge Posada slammed a three-run homer in the eighth inning to key the victory.

Jeter got three hits to match Gehrig with 2,721 in a Yankees uniform, a mark the Hall of Famer had held by himself for more than 70 years. Jeter had a chance to break the record, but he walked against reliever Grant Balfour after New York's comeback in the eighth.

Shut down by rookie Jeff Niemann most of the night, the Yankees sent the AL champion Rays to their eighth consecutive loss. It's their longest skid since dropping eight straight in July 2007.

Red Sox 7, Orioles 5

At Boston, pinch-hitter Victor Martinez hit a three-run double to break a seventh-inning tie as Boston downed Baltimore.

Billy Wagner (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh inning, striking out two, for the victory—the first AL decision of his career. After Daniel Bard put two men on in the eighth, Jonathan Papelbon got four outs for his 35th save, giving up one run.

Angels 6, Mariners 3

At Anaheim, California, Kendry Morales hit an early three-run double and Jered Weaver pitched well into the seventh inning as Los Angeles beat Seattle for its fifth victory in six games.

Juan Rivera added a late two-run homer, and Brian Fuentes bounced back from a blown save one night earlier to earn his AL-leading 40th save for the Angels, whose victory kept their AL West lead at 4 1/2 games over Texas.

Royals 5, Tigers 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Robinson Tejeda tossed six shutout innings to outpitch Justin Verlander and Billy Butler hit three doubles as Kansas City beat Detroit for its first three-game winning streak since July.

Butler's three-double game was his club-record fourth of the season, and he also posted his fifth consecutive multihit game.

White Sox 4, Athletics 3, 13 innings

At Chicago, A.J. Pierzynski hit a game-ending RBI double in the bottom of the 13th inning, and Scott Podsednik had four hits to lead Chicago past Oakland.

Alexei Ramirez singled with one out in the 13th against Edgar Gonzalez (0-2) and Pierzynski followed with a double off the wall in left-center.

Twins 4, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Justin Morneau and Orlando Cabrera homered as Minnesota finally got the best of Roy Halladay.

Cabrera tied it with a leadoff shot in the sixth and Morneau hit a two-out tiebreaking drive in the eighth for his 30th homer. Pinch-hitter Michael Cuddyer added a two-run double in the ninth.

Rangers 10, Indians 0

At Cleveland, Scott Feldman pitched seven innings, Esteban German went 5 for 5 and Marlon Byrd hit a three-run homer as Texas completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland within 24 hours.

Feldman (16-4) allowed five hits and struck out five to win his eighth consecutive road start, a club record. His 12 road victories are a new team mark and tops in the AL.

He was staked to a 5-0 lead before throwing a pitch after Byrd and Ivan Rodriguez hit home runs in the first inning off Fausto Carmona (3-10), who allowed five runs in 2-3 of an inning, the shortest start of his career. Texas added five runs in the ninth.

The victory assured Texas will keep pace with Boston in the AL wild card standings. The Rangers entered the day two games behind the Red Sox, who hosted Baltimore on Wednesday night.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Albert Pujols hit two home runs for a MLB-leading 47 and Adam Wainwright picked up his 18th win as the St. Louis Cardinals pasted the Milwaukee Brewers.

Adam Wainwright (18-7) scattered five hits in seven scoreless innings to become the first pitcher this season to 18 wins and Pujols powered the offense with his homers in the fifth and seventh innings to complete a three-game sweep of the Brewers.

But St. Louis got a scare when Matt Holliday tumbled running out a grounder in the third and left with a bruised left knee.

Cubs 8, Pirates 5

At Pittsburgh, Carlos Zambrano won for the first time since July 22 by limiting slumping-again Pittsburgh to two runs over six innings as Chicago finished off a three-game sweep.

Playing before a sparse crowd that was announced at 10,899 but looked—and sounded—like it was much smaller, the Cubs won their sixth in a row against the Pirates, who completed a 1-5 homestand.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth inning as Arizona beat Los Angeles, to slice the Dodgers' NL West lead to 2 1/2 games over Colorado.

Miguel Montero homered, doubled and singled and Chris Young also went deep for Arizona, which snapped a six-game losing streak. Dan Haren allowed three runs and struck out nine in 7 1-3 innings.

Rockies 4, Reds 3

At Denver, Seth Smith hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning to give Colorado its sixth consecutive game and extend the Rockies' NL wild-card lead to four games over San Francisco.

Clint Barmes started the winning rally with a one-out double off All-Star closer Francisco Cordero (2-5). Pinch-hitters Jason Giambi and Ryan Spilborghs walked before Cordero struck out Carlos Gonzalez. Smith fouled off four pitches before lining a hit to drive in two runs.

Padres 4, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Adrian Gonzalez hit his career-high 37th homer and drove in three runs as San Diego downed San Francisco.

Wade LeBlanc (2-1) pitched a career-best seven innings to win his second straight start.

Gonzalez connected for a two-run shot in the third. Oscar Salazar homered for the Padres, who have won 10 of their last 13 series.

Phillies 6, Nationals 5

At Washington, Jayson Werth and Pedro Feliz hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth inning to lead Philadelphia past Washington.

Ryan Madson pitched the ninth in place of struggling closer Brad Lidge, earning his sixth save in as many chances as the Phillies beat Washington for the ninth straight time.

Werth's leadoff drive off Tyler Clippard (2-2) gave the Phillies a 5-4 lead. It was his second in two games and No. 33 on the year. Feliz followed with his 10th of the season.

Astros 2, Braves 1

At Houston, Miguel Tejada's two-run single with the bases loaded won it for Houston in the bottom of the ninth.

Kaz Matsui led off the inning with a single and Lance Berkman doubled to left. Carlos Lee was intentionally walked and Tejada's single up the middle handed Rafael Soriano (1-5) his fourth blown save.

Marlins 6, Mets 3

At New York, Ricky Nolasco shut down New York into the seventh inning and Cody Ross hit an early three-run homer.

Dan Uggla homered and Nick Johnson had a long RBI double as Florida took its second straight from New York.

Nolasco (11-8) gave up a leadoff hit to Angel Pagan then didn't give up another hit until Pagan doubled with two outs in the sixth. He faltered in the seventh, walking David Wright to start the inning. Carlos Beltran singled, then David Murphy hit an RBI double. Nolasco was removed after Jeff Francoeur's sacrifice fly. Another run scored on a groundout.

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One week FREE on your first rental payment.
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Computer Desk
Desktop Computers
Hurry in...While supplies last!
This is a rent to own transaction. You do not own the product until all rental payments are made or purchase is made. See store for HUGE selection!
DIAL Rent-to-Own
NO CREDIT CHECKS!
NO REPAIR BILLS!
NO LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS!
AGANA Marine Corps Dr. 477-RENT Reserved Parking in Rear
DEDEDO Calvo's Center 637-RENT Behind Johndel's Supermarket
SAIPAN Middle Road 234-RENT Next to Subway

Final meeting today for inter-government dart league

Representatives of the different teams for next week's 2009 Inter-Government Dart League are required to attend the final meeting at 2pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Organizer Derron Flores said that the entry fee of $20 per player would be due during the meeting.

Each team will be composed of a minimum of four players or a maximum of eight.

Current government employees or retired government employees are qualified to join the league.

Federal employees and U.S. army reserve officers are also allowed to play in this event.

This will be the first inter-government dart league in the CNMI and organizers are hoping to hold it on an annual basis.

Since last week, there were over 20 teams that have already signified their intention to participate.

Flores said that the money collected from the entry fees would be used to boy supplies for the official stats and the banquet.

Games will be played in different venues every Friday at 7pm starting on Sept. 18.

Each team can choose its home court from among 16 bar grill establishments on Saipan.

Rules for the league would be based on the Saipan Electronic Darts Association bylaws.

For more information, interested teams and players may contact Derron Flores at 664-2503 (Ada Gym) or Cecil or Warlee at 237-4397 (Pacific Amusement). ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Juan Pan/Camacho golf fundraiser tomorrow

Exciting prizes will be at stake in the golf tournament organized for gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial candidates Juan Pan Tenorio Guerrero and Joseph Norita Camacho tomorrow, Sept. 12, at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The top prize would be a roundtrip ticket to Manila. Other prizes at stake include iron set and drivers.

The one-day, 72-par tournament will use a double peoria format.

Showtime is set at 7am while the shotgun start is at 8am.

Each player will have the opportunity to donate $85 for the Juan Pan-Camacho team-up.

For more information visit www.juanpan.jncamacho.com or call 483-1728. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

RGA September qualifier this Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its September Ace of the Month Qualifier this Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Check in time is 10am with tee off set an hour later at 11pm at the Agingan Point golf venue.

For more information about RGA's September Ace Qualifier and the rest of its tournaments for 2009, contact president Jordan Kosam at 483-4506 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 288-1129. ***(PR)***

WABOL

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will also not be making the trip to Rarotonga because of the shortage of funds.

"We really tried to beat the odds this year by trying our best to get a team to the Mini Games but four months [to prepare and fundraise] was a very short time. Unfortunately the four of us—Ralph, Ben, Carl, and I—were not able to meet the deadline by NMASA of Aug. 15 [to remit a portion of the funds for airfare and per diem]," he said.

Kosam added that the national golf team solicited assistance from the Legislature and the Lt. Governor's Office and were assured help to bridge their $7,500 shortfall.

However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief said that the assistance unfortunately could only be made possible after Aug. 15, which was the NMASA deadline.

"We requested NMASA's help to cover cost in the meantime and we would pay it back before our departure. That was not made possible, too. Time was of the essence and also we noticed that we had burned more time looking for sponsors than actually dedicating time for practice for the upcoming Games. It was useless to participate with the minimal time of practice we committed," said Kosam.

All is not lost though, as Kosam said that RGA will now be training its sites for the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

For his part, Wabol said he will again be honored to represent the CNMI in the quadrennial event even if he will be participating sans any teammate.

"There's nothing I can do. Too bad we will not be able to play in the team competition and it looks like I will be playing in the singles," he said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal said he is keeping sharp by practicing his chipping and putting at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. He is also slated to take part in the Juan "Pan" Tenorio Guerrero fundraising golf tourney tomorrow.

"Just a matter of playing good in the Mini Games. Experience will work for me. I'm not worried about other people's game," was Wabol's answer when asked how he thinks he will perform in the Cook Islands.

The opening ceremony of the Mini Games will be held in the afternoon of Sept. 21 at the Tereora Stadium in Rarotonga.

The next day, Sept. 2, will be the start of the golf competition and it will run until Sept. 25.

TOC donation

In related news, Tournament of Champions chair Ben Babauta last Wednesday donated $200 worth of golf gear to Wabol to help with his Mini Games stint.

The donation includes a dozen ProV1 golf balls and two official TOC polo shirts made by Nike.

Also present during the turnover ceremony held at DFS Galleria was Kosam, who thanked Babauta and his company for the gesture.

"I am very grateful for Ben Babauta and Team TOC for their commitment in sponsoring our team uniforms and Tietlist ProV1 golf balls for the team. We also want to thank Island Apparel and Yasu Hirinaka for their support," he said.

LOW

From Page 36

chlorine level.

BEH health inspector and manager John Tagabuel said they have been monitoring the pool the past two weeks, while working closely with the facility's owner, Marianas Resort and Spa, to rectify the problem.

"Unfortunately, as of yesterday's inspection, the pool still has low PH levels and adequate mitigation hasn't been implemented," said Tagabuel, who added that the pool will remain closed until the adequate chlorine level is reached.

Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good said the closure of the Marpi pool should serve as an eye-opener for government officials to give more support to local swimmers.

He said unlike baseball, swimming does not get support from the government despite the sport performing well in regional events and contributing the most medals in the Pacific Games and Micronesian Games.

Good said Tsunami Saipan will be looking to use hotel swimming pools to continue the training of their athletes.

Marianas Resort, for its part, apologized for the inconvenience the closure of the pool has caused, specially to Tsunami Saipan and the pioneering Saipan Swim Club.

It said it hopes to open the pool in 10 days and added that the pool was unable to retain the ideal chlorine level because of leaks, which were due to earthquakes, jolts, and from normal wear and tear.

Marianas Resort added that burnt-out water pumps have also contributed to the deteriorating water quality of the islands' only 50-meter swimming facility.

Worse, the hotel reported that the generator powering the pool's lone deepwater well pump was damaged two weeks ago.

The well pump was critical in the pool's use as it supplies water to the pool and Marianas Resort could not get the pump repaired due to heavy rains, making it hard for the crane to get to the pump.

"This meant no fresh water was going into the swimming pool," it said. "Thus, the leaks inside allowed whatever water there was to slowly drain away, and as the water drained below the skimmers, the pumps working the skimmers stopped altogether for lack of water."

Marianas Resort said the pump had been repaired but it would take some time before the water quality is restored to safe levels.

With the help of American Red Cross and the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation, Marianas Resort is trying to identify the leaks and plug them. Tsunami Saipan has also offered personnel and scuba tanks. The hotel said other volunteers are welcome to help.

DOCOMO

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Tumaquip and Bob Coldeen scored two points each in an 8-0 blast as PSS cut the lead to just four going into the final period.

Mendiola split his two charities to tie the score at 42-all but that was the best PSS could do as Docomo wrapped up the win with a 14-4 run.

In the second game, Micronesian Brokers, Inc. easily defeated CPA ARFF, 79-64, and moved to second place with a 4-2 record behind league-leading IT&E (6-0).

Ivan Devero closed out with a night-high of 21 points and led three other MBI players with double digit score.

ARFF is still winless after six assignments. Jerome Reyes scored 15 and Luis Cepeda added 14 in the loss.

First Game

NTT DOCOMO 58 – Bernardo 20, Abuel 18, Fitial 9, Villacrusis 5, Teregoyo 4, Lee 2.

MCGRAW HILL/PSS 46 – Mendiola 12, Manibusan 10, Ruluked 6, Cruz 4, Itibus 4, Tumaquip 4, Villacrusis 2, Mendez 2, Aughenbaugh 2,

Scoring by quarters: 9-16, 23-22, 37-33, 58-46

Second Games

MBI 79 – Devero 21, Nonato, 14, Demapan 14, Achas, 10, Gapor, 8, Trajano 4, Cordero 3, Barbo 3, Capalad 2.

ARFF 64 – Je. Reyes 15, Cepeda 14, Quitugua 13, Irmak 9, Ju. Reyes 5, Aldan 4, Sablan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-11, 43-31, 61-42, 79-64.

STEP

From Page 36

beach out of sight, my children were back home and I thought of them, and that's when I swallowed my pride and told the surfer/guardian angel, yes, I needed a tow.

It was only as he struggled to bring me in that I realized how foolish I had been to get to that place so far away from everyone and the shore. I was literally and figuratively over my head. If I didn't have a board to hold onto, I would have surely drowned. As we were coming in, he spotted a huge wave about to crash upon us and shouted for me to let go. The wave broke on top of us and knocked me off my board and tore off the leash I had around my foot. I was bobbing in the water, frantically looking for my board. As soon as I saw it, I frantically swam toward it as if I was chasing life itself. Just as I grabbed it, another huge wave crashed on top of me and sent me into a spiral. I held my breath and board as if my life depended on it (it did) and rode that sucker all the way in. It was the ride of my life. That was also my last ride I decided then and there.

There are only three viable places to surf on Saipan: Obyan with its perilously close reef, the almost inaccessible Lanyas at the end of the reef by Managaha, and Sugar Dock. I do not know how many people have drowned at Sugar Dock but the number is significant and it has to be a public concern.

There are probably a few dozen surfers here ranging from experienced to novice. In a year, I would guess there may only be about 20 days or less with a west swell that produces decent waves to surf. I do not support closing the beach on those rare days. "Surf's up!" is something to celebrate and enjoy.

All surfers who get in the water know that they do so at their own risk. However, the government will use its resources to protect the public within reason. In the case of Matsumoto, the local government with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard performed a search and rescue operation after he was reported missing. That came after one earlier rescue had already been performed.

Here's what I recommend: When it's obvious that Sugar Dock is swarmed with surfers like it was last weekend, have boating safety personnel there just in case. It's only a few days of the year and the cost would be substantially lower than a three-day search and recovery mission which is standard operation following a missing person.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	91	50	.645	–
Boston	81	58	.583	9
Tampa Bay	72	68	.514	18 1/2
Toronto	62	77	.446	28
Baltimore	56	83	.403	34

Central Division

Detroit	75	63	.543	–
Minnesota	70	69	.504	5 1/2
Chicago	70	71	.496	6 1/2
Cleveland	60	79	.432	15 1/2
Kansas City	54	85	.388	21 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	55	.601	–
Texas	79	60	.568	4 1/2
Seattle	72	68	.514	12
Oakland	62	77	.446	21 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	79	58	.577	–
Florida	74	65	.532	6
Atlanta	71	68	.511	9
New York	62	77	.446	18
Washington	47	92	.338	33

Central Division

St. Louis	84	57	.596	–
Chicago	71	67	.514	11 1/2
Houston	68	71	.489	15
Milwaukee	66	73	.475	17
Cincinnati	63	76	.453	20
Pittsburgh	54	84	.391	28 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	58	.589	–
Colorado	80	60	.571	2 1/2
San Francisco	76	64	.543	6 1/2
San Diego	63	78	.447	20
Arizona	62	79	.440	21

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 8, Pittsburgh 5
St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1
San Diego 4, San Francisco 2
Philadelphia 6, Washington 5
Florida 6, N.Y. Mets 3
Houston 2, Atlanta 1
Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3
Arizona 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
Texas 10, Cleveland 0
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 4, Toronto 1
Boston 7, Baltimore 5
Kansas City 5, Detroit 1
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3, 13 innings
L.A. Angels 6, Seattle 3

LOCAL SCORES

GOVT/BIZ STANDINGS

IT&E	6	0
CHC	3	1
MBI	4	2
PSS	3	4
Hyatt	2	0
Docomo	3	1
Tinian	2	1
DCCA	2	2
BOG	3	4
Customs	1	2
CPA	0	5
ARFF	0	7

Voyager's take team pool pole position

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jonny's IT&E Voyager's players pose after beating VFW Sentinel in the Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball League last Tuesday at Jonny's Bar.

Jonny's IT&E Voyager's domination of VFW Sentinel coupled with NTT Docomo Hustlers' shaky win over D'Pirates 8 Ballers last Tuesday thrust the former to the lead in Agingan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball League.

Voyager's ran roughshod over Obyan Division's Sentinel, taking six of the seven games to improve its win-loss mark to 21-7 after 28 games.

Chester Hamoy started the ball rolling for the IT&E-sponsored team as he swept Steve Limes in the opening singles.

Rolly Villanueva then made it two straight wins with a 2-1 victory over Tom Tebuteb. The Voyager's Express was then halted when Chester Cuento bowed to Nizea Masaes in two games to put Sentinel on the board.

That was as far the VFW Post 3457 team would go though as Jojo Talibong and Luis Fajardo took care of their single round matches against Leo Sablan and Tyrone Kileleman, respectively, to give Voyager's an unassailable 4-1 advantage.

To cap it all off, the doubles tandems of Talibong and R.J. Mascarinas and Fajardo and Roman Rodriguez took out the broom against Limes and Masaes and Sablan and Marty Taisacan, respectively.

The loss dropped Sentinel to last place in Obyan at 8-20.

While Voyager's was hammering out the easy win against VFW, Docomo had to literally scratch and claw its way to a 4-3 decision against Obyan's 8 Ballers. The narrow win dropped the Hustlers to a 20-8 win-loss card, a game behind archrival Voyager's.

Other results this week saw D'Pirates Huwa (19-9) blow out the sails of Round Perfect Spotters (14-14), 4-3; USSP Watever take down Jonny's Home Boys (10-18), 4-3; and USSP Fotten Palau (13-15) beat Wild Bill's Shark Attack, 4-3.

While the 10-team field is divided into the Agingan and Obyan divisions, all teams square off against each other.

Agingan includes Voyager's, Hustler, D'Pirates Huwa, and Round Perfect Spotters, while the rest, including league-leader USSP Watever, belong in the Obyan division.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and SEDA, contact Rey Pinangay at 233-4397.

IT&E Aqua Walk set tomorrow

The 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk will be held tomorrow morning in the waters off the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Aqua Walk coordinator Mario Espeleta of the Marianas Walking Association said registration is free and organizers will be taking down names of participants beginning at 7am; with the event commencing immediately after.

"At the back of the Aquarius Beach Tower are beautifully lined up pine trees. Beyond these trees you can find the pristine white sand beach, which is the site of the 2009 IT&E Walk."

Espeleta said the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk will have two courses—one is in the water and one along the beach shoreline prepared for participants who do not want to get wet.

"The area or course of the Aqua Walk is lined up with perimeter buoys. Participants will be asked to make two loops or more if they wish at their convenience. For those who do not wish to walk in the waters, they may walk on the sand course. Banners will be placed on both ends of the course to guide the participants to make two laps on the sand course," he said.

Event sponsor IT&E, through former CNMI Miss Universe Jennifer White-Aguon, will also make available giveaways made up of bags, frisbees, keychains, T-shirts, and etc. to participants of the Aqua Walk.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Michelle K. Duty of the United States Coast Guard poses at the 2008 Aqua Walk marker on the beach behind Aquarius Beach Tower after taking part in the event last year.

Two waterpark passes to Pacific Islands Club as well as other goodies will also be raffled off to lucky participants.

Like all MWA activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk and MWA's future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

Known formerly as Saipan Walking Association, Inc., MWA was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CWGA September tourney tomorrow

The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its September tournament tomorrow, Sept. 12, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 11:30pm and tee time is scheduled a half hour later at 12pm at the west course.

For more information, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Rosario tops SGA September tourney

Vince Rosario carded a net score of 69 to win Saipan Golf Association's September Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sunday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rookie Vince Rosario topped the Saipan Golf Association's September Ace of the Month Tournament held recently at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The 28-handicap newcomer carded a net score of 69—built around a 50 in the front nine and a 47 in the back for a gross for a 97 gross—to beat 16 other weekend warriors last Sunday at the Agingan Point golf venue.

Finishing second was another high-handicapper as comebacking Joe "Tofila" Guerrero fired a net 73. The 25-handicap Guerrero came out of a three-year hiatus and finished with a 52 in front and a 46 in the back for a 98 gross.

SGA veteran and the club's lone female member, Frances Sablan, finished third with her 103 gross (52-51), which after her 28 handicap was deducted gave her a 75 net.

Topping the longest drive competition was Das Krishnan in hole No. 6 and Jess Castro in hole No. 18. Closest to the pins winners were Joe Guerrero in holes No. 3 and 7, while hole No. 12 went to Krishnan on a carry over. Jung Eun Teack won the closest to the pin in hole No. 14. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

September King and Queen of the Lanes set

The Saipan Bowling Association and Budweiser will host the September King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament this Sunday and Monday, Sept. 13 and 14, at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 4pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 18 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll off.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Voyager's take team pool pole position

Jonny's IT&E Voyager's domination of VFW Sentinel coupled with NTT Docomo Hustlers' shaky win over D'Pirates 8 Ballers last Tuesday. **35**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Oudin's magical ride ends with loss in quarters

Maybe it all was a little too much, a little too soon for Melanie Oudin. The 17-year-old from Marietta, Ga., kept erasing big deficits and upsetting older, taller, higher-ranked players at the U.S. Open. **32**

Wabol lone wolf in Mini Games golf

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rose Wanket, Jordon Kosan, Ben Babauta, Jess Wabol, and Marida Pensader pose during the turnover of golf gear by DFS Galleria to the Refaluwasch Golf Association last Wedneday.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Looks like Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol will be the CNMI's only entrant in the golf competition of the 2009 Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games.

This after Refaluwasch Golf Association, the sport's governing body in the CNMI, pulled out the names of national team members Ralph Yumul, Carl Hocog, and Ben Duenas from the golf delegation due to financial concerns.

In addition to the three players, coach and RGA president Jordon Kosam

See WABOL on Page 34

Docomo beats PSS, MBI prevails over ARFF

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NTT Docomo recovered from a slow start to beat McGraw Hill/PSS, 58-46, in the IT&E Inter-Government/ Business League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Forward Kae Bernardo scored 10 of his 20 points in the second quarter, while point guard Wowee Abuel scattered 18 as the duo led Docomo to their third win in four outings.

Peter Mendiola and Mel Manibusan scored 12 and 10 points, respectively, for PSS but the team suffered its fourth loss seven games.

PSS erected a 16-9 lead after the first quarter but Docomo suddenly burst out in front at the end of the second quarter via a reverse undergoal stab by center Kelvin Fitial.

Docomo never relinquished the lead after that, establishing their biggest of 11 points, 37-26, with 2:35 left in the third quarter.

Mendiola, Gylkes Ruluked, Jose

See DOCOMO on Page 34

Bob Coldeen of McGraw Hill/PSS tries for a layup but gets blocked by NTT Docomo's Kevin Fitial in their game Wednesday night in the IT&E Inter-Government/ Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Low chlorine level shuts down Marpi pool

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Daily training sessions of the Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan in Marpi are cancelled for now after the government closed the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Division of Environmental Quality and Bureau of Environmental Health suspended operations at the Marpi pool after a joint inspection Wednesday revealed that it has low levels of chlorine, which makes it unsafe for swimmers.

Damage to the pool's water pump and leaks caused by normal wear and tear contributed to the facility's low

See LOW on Page 34

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health shut down the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi Wednesday because of its low chlorine level.

MARK RABAGO

Step back

After polishing off a breakfast of rye toast, link sausage, eggs over easy, a bowl of ice-cold fruit cocktail, and two cups of joe, it's time to push the chair back from the table for reflection.

Prayers go out to the family and friends of Hirofumi Matsumoto who lost his life while surfing at Sugar Dock last Sunday. It's a tragedy because in retrospection, it seems like that didn't have to happen. The seas have calmed and surf subsided. Now when you look out at the calm lagoon, you are left with theories and questions that don't really matter compared to cold hard reality that connects death to life.

Last summer while surfing in Bali and always looking for a better wave, I was swept out way past where the waves were breaking. There was only one surfer in sight, an Australian stud who saw me struggling and paddled over near me. He shouted at me, "Do you need help?"

My first thought was one of pride and I thought about saying, no. But the fact was the current was taking me out faster than I could paddle in, I was 57 years old and not nearly as strong a swimmer as I used to be (and I was never that strong to begin with, plus hadn't surfed in 20 years and was already tiring after being in the water for more than an hour).

One always wonders, "How's it going to end?" Drowning in the Indian Ocean was certainly not one of things I had considered.

I quickly realized that my death would ruin our vacation. Funny how the mind works, but that's the first thought that popped in my head, that I would spoil my wife's vacation. She was sitting on the

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2